

the chronicle

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TV STARS?**
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4,000 jobs at risk as TJ's hits trouble

Department store TJ Hughes is on the brink of administration, placing more than 4,000 jobs in jeopardy.

And chocolate shop Thorntons revealed it was closing up to 180 stores, affecting more than 1,100 employees.

TJ Hughes owns 57 stores, including one in Kidderminster High Street, and employs 200 locally at branches in Lichfield, Walsall and Wolverhampton alongside the Kidderminster store.

The company, due to mark its centenary next year, gave official notice that it intends to appoint an administrator over the next 10 days. The discount department store, bought out by its management team in March, was operating as normal.

The store has been based in Kidderminster for a number of years. Staff at the shop refused to comment on the situation.

Thorntons said it will close at least 120 outlets over the next three years as their leases expire, while it will also consider the future of an additional 60 shops over the same period.

Majority

The survival plan will leave Thorntons with around 180 to 200 company-owned stores, although in the majority of locations it hopes franchisees will open outlets.

The firm has already closed its store in Dudley town centre after studies revealed it had been attracting fewer customers than the Merry Hill Shopping Centre branch.

The store, in the Churchill Precinct closed on May 28. But the firm still has branches at the Cornbow Centre, Halesowen, and in Vicar Street, Kidderminster, alongside its store at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Brierley Hill.

Today carpet shop Carpetright revealed its annual profits had slumped by 70 per cent in the face of "very challenging trading conditions".

Pre-tax profit for the year to April 30 was £6.6 million, down from £22.3m a year earlier, with trading hit by consumers cutting back at the government spending cuts really start to bite. Carpetright said it was reviewing the number of its stores, having already closed 27 in the UK and Ireland, leaving it with a total of 559.

Victory in fight for a crossing

After more than eight years two Hayley Green councillors have won their battle for a controlled crossing on one of the country's "most dangerous roads".

Councillors Ken and Hazel Turner have been campaigning for a crossing on the A456, near the Lutley Lane and Causey Farm Road junctions, since 2003.

The road which featured on ITV's Tonight programme in 2004, was dubbed the second most dangerous in Britain.

It is now hoped the new staggered crossing will be introduced before the start of the next academic year to benefit parents and pupils of Lutley Primary School. Councillor Turner said the crossing would also help ease congestion around the school and create a safer walkway for those heading to Clent Hills and Romsley area.

"We are delighted the application has been approved, it is a wonderful achievement for us and made all our efforts worthwhile," he said.

"It is great to finally see Dudley Council have listened to the residents and I hope to see it in place before the start of the next school year."

Burglars take jewellery, cash and even hearing aid

DEAF BLIND PENSIONER'S HOME RAIDED

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Thieves stole a 90-year-old woman's hearing aid during a "sickening" raid, taking jewellery worth hundreds of pounds and cash as she lay in bed, say police.

The pensioner, who is deaf and partially sighted, assumed the intruders were members of her care team when people entered her house on the Russells Hall estate, Dudley.

A 22ct gold ring, a silver locket containing a family picture, and a gold-coloured watch with her name inscribed on the rear were among the items stolen.

Det Insp Nigel Smith, from Dudley CID, is appealing for witnesses.

"The offenders must have been aware of the vulnerability of the victim and it is sickening to think that they committed such a crime regardless," he said.

"The thieves stole not only her money, but her jewellery box containing precious items, and they even took a hearing aid from one of her bags."

Assistance

He said the burglars had accidentally set off the woman's emergency alarm, fitted for if she had a fall and needed assistance, while inside the property.

Her carers had arrived shortly afterwards and called police when they realised what had happened.

"The elderly lady was unaware of who was in her home, having not been able to see or hear anything, and so assumed the person was a member of her care team," he added.

"It was only a short time later when the actual carers attended the scene that the alarm was raised."

"The lady was not injured in any way, however she was obviously upset once she was aware what had happened."

"Thankfully, such offences are unusual in Dudley."

It comes days after detectives said they are investigating links between a string of violent burglaries against pensioners in their own homes in Walsall. Officers said they were pursuing a number of active inquiries.

Anyone with information on the latest attack is asked to call Dudley CID at Brierley Hill police station on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Show keeping it in the families

It will be real family entertainment when a Black Country theatre group's show opens tonight - with eight sets of close relatives taking to the stage together.

Members of eight different families will be among the cast of 34 treading the boards in Startime Variety group's show, Startime Goes Pop, at Halesowen's Cornbow Hall from until Saturday.

More than 40 songs will be performed including hits by The Beatles and Queen along with numbers from the Little Shop of Horrors and US TV show Glee.

Gardener

Among the performers will be father Vic Beddoes, aged 76, a retired carer, of Pedmore Road, Lye, and his daughter Lynda Dunn, a librarian, of Long Innage, Halesowen.

They will be joined by John Wunderlich, aged 54, a landscape gardener and builder, of Farm Road, Rowley Regis, and his 17-year-old son Karl, a Dudley College student, of Quayside Walk, Netherton.

Siblings Penny Phipps, 34, a legal assistant, of Manifold Way, Wednesbury, and Justin Phipps, 39, a traffic officer for the Highways Agency, are also taking part.

Mother and daughter Kay and Kathryn Churchill, of Woodland Road, Halesowen, will be singing in the chorus.

Kay, 44, is a nursery nurse, and Kathryn, 13, a pupil at Earls High School, Halesowen. Sister act Jodie Rock, 26, and Sianne Shepherd, 44, star along with Sianne's son Ben. Jodie is the show's producer, as well as singing, and Sianne, a teacher, is in the chorus. Father and



Front, from left, are Kirsty Aldridge and her mother Mandy, with the other members of the group, preparing for the Startime Goes Pop

daughter Clive and Leanne Ditchfield, of Regis Heath Road, Rowley Regis, both have solos. Mother and daughter Mandy, 46, and Kirsty Aldridge, 23, also star.

Mandy, of Foinavon Close, Rowley Regis, is receptionist at Lapal Medical Practice, Halesowen, while Kirsty, of Halesowen Road, in the town is a professional singer, as well as a retail supervisor.

Completing the family show are Holly Mills, 14, a pupil at Earls High School, Halesowen, and her sister, Gemma, 22, a nurse at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Call 07870 771708 for tickets.

Families in legal action over deaths

An investigation has been launched into allegations of negligence at Russells Hall hospital following at least two deaths from undiagnosed conditions.

A legal team is looking into claims against medical staff at the hospital in Dudley.

They are acting on behalf of two families which claim their loved ones died after doctors and nurses ignored conditions that eventually led to their deaths.

Harold Nock, aged 63, is behind the campaign after losing his daughter Wendy, aged 35, in 2009. She died eight days after being admitted to hospital with a blockage in her intestines.

Her father, of Birmingham New Road, Dudley, has spent months compiling evidence to support his case, including a report by the General Medical Council and an independent review commissioned by the Dudley Group of Hospitals.

GMC investigator Neil Ineson, in his report, concluded: "The care as seen in totality was in my opinion seriously deficient, with both individuals and the system contributing to deficiency."

Meanwhile, the independent review, conducted by a Professor P J Guillou, found a series of failures on behalf of medical staff.

Conducting

Prof Guillou states that had a CT scan been performed as recommended, the bowel obstruction which ultimately contributed to her death might have been identified. "On the balance of probabilities, she would have survived this event," he concluded.

The family of young mother-of-one Kelly Weston have joined with Mr Nock, pursuing their own legal action after doctors failed to find out why she continued to lose weight.

Lawyer Nicola Lewis, from Kingwinford-based Waldrons Solicitors said: "We have been instructed to look into concerns over the care these patients received during their time in hospital."

Dudley Group of Hospitals chief executive Paula Clark said the trust was aware of the legal action and could not comment on the case. However, she expressed her condolences to Mr Nock and his family, and said improvements had been made.

300 apply for 32 club posts

More than 300 people applied for just 32 posts at a new nightclub being opened in Brierley Hill.

Pulse nightclub is being created in the former Danilo cinema, in Dudley Road.

Bosses at the club say they were shocked at the response after the positions were advertised at job centres around the Dudley borough.

Jobs included bar staff, glass collectors and cloakroom attendants at the nightclub which will have a 1,000 capacity.

Martina Maxwell, aged 30, who is part of the management team, said: "We were amazed by the response that we had as I had calls coming through all the time about the jobs. It just shows the need for these types of jobs in the town. We have been able to fill the positions so far."

Miss Maxwell added they have taken on extra staff to promote the club in town centres across the borough in the coming days.

Work is well under way now to restore the building which had been empty for three years. A dancefloor will be installed in the next few days ahead of the planned opening on July 9.

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City bid odds are shorter

The odds of Dudley being made a city have been shortened to 14/1.

Dudley is set to battle it out against 25 towns for city status as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

When borough bosses first announced their bid it was installed at 20/1 but now bookmakers say it is 10th favourite to win.

Bookmaker Paddy Power said Reading was favourite to win city status with its odds now at 11/2. Omagh in Northern Ireland is second favourite.

If Dudley manages to secure the status it could help the borough to attract thousands of pounds of investment.

It was announced last year that one new city would be created to mark the Queen's 60 years on the throne. The decision to submit an application was made just two days before the May 27 deadline by Dudley Council leader Les Jones. Dudley, has a population of more than 300,000.

Call for more stage players

A Black Country theatre group has launched an appeal for new members for its latest production.

Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society needs younger people to sign up. The society will be hosting an open recruitment evening on July 28, from 8pm onwards at Kingswinford Methodist Church, Stream Road, Kingswinford.

Wacky Wagner is still riding the tide of fame

The curtain may have come down on his time in the spotlight on one of the nation's favourite TV shows, but the party is nowhere near over for former Halesowen teacher and X Factor star Wagner.

With movie deals, TV shows and regular gigs taking him all over the country, the bongo-playing cult star has a full diary as he rides out the success the show has brought.

The Brazil-born singer began a regular slot at Wolverhampton's Beacon FM radio station. "The most I ever would be is a singing tramp, and look what has happened to me," he said. "Everything is going very well," he added.

Wagner recently visited ward 15 at Birmingham Children's Hospital as a favour to one of his biggest fans, eight-year-old Joseph Timmins, who has undergone three years of intense chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital and is now in remission.

Battled

Wagner first met the brave Cradley schoolboy outside the stage door of Birmingham's LG Arena on the X Factor tour, and was moved by the story of how the youngster has battled leukaemia since he was three.

He paid him a surprise visit in a school assembly at Cradley C of E Primary, in Church Road, last month – which, according to his mother Amy, was the highlight of the youngster's year.

The former PE teacher at Leasowes Community College, Halesowen, toured the oncology ward at the hospital, and promised to help however he could in the unit's bid to raise £100,000 for improvements. "Cancer causes suffering to people and their families, sometimes for years," he said. "My mother fought against cancer for many years, finally losing the battle in 1994, so I know how devastating it can be. It's especially tragic when it's a young child. If I can help and make people smile,

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

I want to do that. So I was happy to come when Joseph and his mother asked me." Just days ago, Wagner flew to Ireland where he is filming one of three upcoming films – one is a gangster movie, another a comedy, and he is also providing a voiceover in a 3-D animated film, he said.

"I love everything to do with the arts – painting and drawing as well as singing and acting, so I am very much looking forward to it," he said. As well as performing at various venues across the country each weekend, the flamboyant star will co-present the breakfast show on Beacon FM every Wednesday, between 7am and 10am.

The 54-year-old singer has not let fame – or the hundreds of thousands of pounds raked in through live shows – go to his head and still lives in his bungalow in Pensnett, Dudley.

Beautiful

Each contestant was reportedly paid £100,000 for performing in X Factor Live, while a homecoming show at Stourbridge's River Rooms was said to be in the region of £3,000.

"Pensnett is a great neighbourhood. I love the people, and my best friends all live nearby," he said. "Also, I live just over the road from Fens Pool, which is a beautiful natural environment – why would I want to move from there? I fell in love with the Black Country and the Black Country people, I wouldn't want to move."

Ever the passionate Brazilian, Wagner moved to Dudley to be with first wife Trudi Brass in 2002 – a marriage which broke down just weeks later – and started working as a supply teacher.

He also ran his own conservatory fitting firm, and taught karate. He was made a British citizen at a ceremony at Dudley Council House in 2005.

Wagner finished in sixth place in the TV talent competition in Louis Walsh's over-28s category. He was by far the most controversial contestant, winning applause for his good humour and bizarre versions of much-loved pop songs.



Wagner, visiting Birmingham Children's Hospital, with patient Joseph Timmins



Wagner and Joseph on the wards of the Birmingham Children's Hospital



Wagner is now a DJ on Beacon Radio

Hi-tech breast checks

New equipment has been unveiled in Dudley aimed at helping to improve the diagnosis of breast cancer.

Dudley Breast Screening service says the improved equipment should reduce the need for repeat appointments. The new unit will be moving to sites around the borough.

The programme is aimed at women aged between 50 and 70 who are registered with a Dudley GP.

Amanda Harborne, the service's superintendent, said: "The new digital unit allows images to be seen immediately by the radiographer before they are sent to Russell's Hall Hospital for reporting – reducing the need for repeat screening."

"The quality of images and the ability to digitally manipulate them on the computer screen also makes it much more efficient than the traditional films."

"Women often think a mammogram will be more uncomfortable than it actually is. They will be out of the unit within around 15 minutes of their appointment time with the reassurance that early detection of breast cancer could save their life."

Around 75 per cent forward for a mammogram, says hospital bosses.

Fruit tea time

Hurst Green Methodist Church on Narrow Lane, Halesowen, will be staging a strawberry tea on July 2 from 2.30pm.

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Third of Topple test headstones unsafe

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More than 1,600 memorials and headstones have undergone "topple tests" in a local borough in six months – with a third found to be at risk of collapse.

Investigations in cemeteries across Dudley since January found 592 graves needed to be stabilised, council chiefs revealed.

Officers have tested the memorials by hand, and those that wobble have had to be shored up to prevent them falling over in future.

The tests are being carried out on headstones at Gornal Wood, Stourbridge, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Cradley, Halesowen, Lye and Wollescote cemeteries.

They are the latest areas in the region to undergo the tests, which started in 2007 on larger memorials in response to Government guidelines.

Last month staff started carrying out checks on smaller headstones at Gornal Wood before moving onto Dudley cemetery.

Attention

Environment chief Councillor David Stanley, said: "Since January this year we have inspected 1,600 memorials with 592 of those in need of attention."

"The rolling inspections programme has been ongoing since 2007 and the checks are carried out using the hand push test, as recommended by the Ministry of Justice."

"Any memorial found to be unstable is made safe, with all costs met by the council."

Council chiefs estimate up to £70,000 will be spent repairing unstable headstones.

Since investigations first started, about 4,500 inspections on large memorials at all seven cemeteries across the borough have been carried out along with checks on around 4,000 lawn headstones.

Bosses say all of the checks are being carried out "very sensitively" and staff are available to speak to families directly to discuss the work.

Any memorials that fail the test are made safe in accordance with national industry standards. This involves the introduction of a new base slab and installation of a ground anchor through the base of the memorial.

High-fliers enjoy workshop

Youngsters at a Halesowen school learned how to reach for the sky at a special fun day organised by oil giant Shell.

High-flying pupils at Olive Hill Primary School, Springfield Road, Halesowen, took part in the science workshop on flight organised by the company.

They were shown how to build and fly successful kites, experimented with gyrocopters and taught all about the science of flying.

The fun day formed part of the school's science topic around flight, which has also seen students visit RAF Cosford to explore planes close up, study the history of aviation and read the novel Skellig by David Almond, in which a young boy discovers an injured angel.

Acting head-teacher Andy Lucas said the day had been subsidised and organised by Shell to fit in with the school's "creative curriculum" policy.

"The children have enjoyed the topic of flight immensely, and this practical activity has enhanced their learning and proved great fun at the same time," he added.



Front Ryan Hadley, aged nine, Beth McDonough, 11, centre Cortney Birch, 10, back Michael Trainer and Arty Bradley, both 11, with kites they made

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Students in passing out parade



Students on parade Alice Laurie, Ryan Astley and Jenny Oakley

Hundreds of students at Dudley College are looking forward to careers in the Army, Navy and police after celebrating at a passing out parade.

The Public Service course students at the college gathered at the Black Country Museum to get their certificates.

More than 200 students took part in the parade in front of a stand packed with 700 friends and family to demonstrate some of the skills they have learned

over the last two years. The course, which has been running for 10 years, is designed to prepare teenagers for life in the public services.

Course tutor Suni Narr, who served in the army with the Fourth Battalion of the Mercian Regiment in Afghanistan in 2009, said: "We do a lot of work on team leadership."

Jenny Oakley, aged 18, of Brookdale, Lower Gornal, wants to join the police. She said: "I really wanted to

help people and make a difference." Alice Laurie, 19, of Kates Hill, Dudley, was watched by boyfriend Adam Raine, who has been in the Navy for a year after graduating from the course. She is torn between being an Army medic or joining the navy.

"It's a great way of life and it's important to serve your country," she said. Family tradition inspired Ryan Astley, aged 18, of Wollaston to join the course as his father served in the REME in Northern Ireland.

New gig date for Durans

Duran Duran have rescheduled their homecoming gig in Birmingham after it was cancelled last month when lead singer Simon Le Bon developed a throat infection.

Thousands of fans were left disappointed after the band had to cancel the show at the LG Arena on May 21.

The gig will now take place at the LG Arena on December 2.

The new date is one of 11 that have been rescheduled.

All the postponed gigs remain in their original venues.

Bassist John Taylor said: "Given the fact that we'd missed the dates in May, we wanted to do something really special for the fans pre-Christmas."

"Finally we've been able to make it work, and cannot wait to get there," added John.

Tickets for the original show will be valid for the new date.

Volunteers' add a splash of colour

A splash of colour has been given to a community garden in Halesowen thanks to volunteers.

Staff and helpers at the Hope Centre in Andrew Road have planted summer bedding plants to give the walled gardens a makeover.

They have been sponsored by Mehmet Aslan of The Grill Cafe in Great Cornbow. Belle Vale Councillor Jill Nicholls who has supported the project said: "Staff, and visitors to the centre will be able to enjoy the beauty of the gardens all year round."

The centre supports unemployed people.

Volunteers in clean-up

A disused piece of land near a Black Country church has been transformed following a clean-up project by Prince's Trust volunteers.

Weeds and nettles were cleared by a team of eight on land to the rear of St John the Evangelist Church, in Dudley Wood Road, Dudley Wood.



Mehmet Aslan from The Grill Cafe with Councillor Jill Nicholls with, bottom, Wendy Riley and Charles Nidibanje at the Hope Centre community garden

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thechronicle

Bending firm gets Olympic metal

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A steel firm in the Black Country struck gold after winning contracts to help in the construction of the new Olympic Park in London.

Barnshaws Steel Bending in Colesey was chosen to build some of the sporting venues ready for the games next year.

The extra workload enabled the firm to take on six more workers, increasing the number of employees at the site in Anchor Lane to 70 after the construction industry was hit hard by the recession.

Commercial director Greg North said the Olympic contracts, which saw workers bend thousands of tons of steel, had been a huge boost for the firm.

Blessing

He said: "The construction industry had been declining so the Olympics has been a real blessing. It was quite a substantial amount of work over two years. It has been great to have been involved."

The company has also curved structural steel for the roof on Wimbledon's Centre Court and for Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport and Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden visited the firm last week to see their work.

He said: "This company is a tribute to the best of Black Country manufacturing."

"We should all take pride in that a local company is doing such fantastic work for the Olympics," he said.

Across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire more than 60 companies have so far been awarded Olympic work, ranging from major businesses such as Carillion and Aggreko to local firms like Wolverhampton fencing company Zaun and Barhale Construction in Walsall.

Rapper is top of class



Rapper Loick Essien with pupils at Windsor High School, Halesowen

A rapper who has sung with hip hop stars N-Dubz popped into a Halesowen school for a performance.

Loick Essien, who will release his third single How We Roll, on July 3, paid pupils at Windsor High School, Richmond Street a visit. He held an X Factor style auditions session and signed autographs for students after performing a selection of his songs during the afternoon in front of the whole school.

Some of the pupils also took to the stage to play their music.

The visit was organised after his promoter, Shazz Smith, contacted the school's head of music, Marie Lowndes.

Essien, aged 21, who has also performed with rapper Chipmunk, will release his debut album called Identity later this year. School PA Lorraine Gaskell said: "The visit went brilliantly. It was a very exciting afternoon for everyone."

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thechronicle

More than 500 ops are put off at Russell's Hall

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More than 500 operations were cancelled or postponed at Dudley's Russell's Hall Hospital over the last three years due to bed shortages, new figures claim.

Between 2008 and 2010 a total of 573 operations were halted, even though some were deemed to be an emergency.

The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, said it had already brought in new measures to reduce the number of cancellations. The figures were released under the Freedom of Information Act. They show that last year, there were 351 operations cancelled. In 2009 the total number of operations called off stood at 110 while in 2008 the figure was 112.

Hospital chiefs said the number of cancelled procedures was higher in 2010 due to an increase in emergency patients.

Of the total number of operations cancelled between 2008 and 2010, 525 had been pre-planned, while 48 were deemed as either an emergency or urgent operation. Some were shelved due to there being no beds available in particular departments at the hospital, such as the high dependency unit.

Planned

Paula Clarke, chief executive of The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The Dudley Group of Hospitals makes every effort to carry out operations on the day they are planned.

"However, there are some occasions when this is not possible and surgery has to be cancelled. Operations can be cancelled or postponed due to a shortage of beds, no available intensive therapy unit beds or no high dependency unit beds.

"Last year saw a six per cent increase on the previous year in the number of emergency patients admitted into hospital, which resulted in the trust cancelling operations because of the extra demand on beds."

She added: "We have already redesignated the medical and surgical beds so that there are dedicated beds for patients who require surgery."

"We hope this will help to reduce the number of cancelled operations."

"Patients whose operations are cancelled are offered another appointment within 28 days as per the national requirement."

It's a fun-sen burner for pupils



Festival fun for 10-year-olds Joshua Francis, left, from the Knoll School, Kidderminster, Adity Shetty, from Vernon Lodge School at Stretton, Staffordshire, and Olivia Crowder from Winterfold School, Chaddesley Corbett.

More than 100 pupils conducted science experiments and took part in drama and music performances during an annual festival at a Stourbridge boarding school.

Old Swinford Hospital School, in Oldswinford, Stourbridge, hosted schools from across the region at its annual summer festival. Students came from as far afield as Harrow to attend the event. The programme of events at the school in Heath Lane was divided

into four categories - science, music, sport and drama. Fun activities included creating different chemical reactions and learning how to build a bridge.

They also had the chance to use microscopes to look at "mini-beasts", fungus and even their own cells.

Professional jazz musician Ralph Allin joined the music group to rehearse and inspire the youngsters who then gave a performance including their own compositions.

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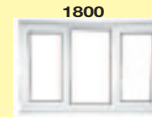
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Housing work starts after battle

Work is set to start on a controversial housing development in a village after residents lost their three-year battle to stop it.

The 39 homes will be on green space at the back of houses in Brook Crescent, Hagley. Developers Billingham and Kite won planning permission on appeal after initially being rejected by Bromsgrove District Council.

Now it has been revealed diggers are set to move in next month. Residents say they are braced for congestion as more people compete for parking spaces.

They are also worried the building work, which is expected to last 12 months, will cause disruption. More than 100 residents

objected to the development but the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol gave it the go-ahead in March.

Locals were furious over the effect they claimed it would have on the local area.

Governors at Hagley Primary School have also raised concerns that they could not cope with pupil influx.

Hagley Parish Council chairman Steve Colella said the local infrastructure would not be able to cope with the extra houses.

He said there would be increased traffic, while doctors' surgeries would be over-subscribed. Residents say the homes would not be in keeping with the character of the area.

Mr Colella, of Lodge Crescent, said:

"The A456 is congested and it became gridlocked with the snow earlier this year. These homes will make things even worse. "But it has been approved so we just have to get used to it."

Sixteen of the homes would be two-bedroom and 23 four-bedroom.

Residents are also braced for another fight after a 550,000 sq ft area of land was opened up for potential development by Bromsgrove District Council.

It is part of the authority's core strategy, which aims to attract investment to the area. A report by the council says the piece of land could accommodate 250 homes.

A public consultation is being held on the core strategy.

Cash for helping disabled

Children with disabilities are in line for a boost with offers of cash for people who can put on activities for them.

Bids of up to £500 are being sought by Dudley Council from providers of activities for disabled children to enable parents to have a break from caring and to provide their children with new and exciting opportunities.

Breaks can include daytime, evening, weekend and overnight activities.

The types of short breaks can vary but particularly of interest are activities being provided throughout the summer holidays when families have need a break.

Children's chief Councillor Liz Walker, said: "I would urge short breaks providers to get in touch and apply for the funding if they are providing any activities for disabled children."

Contact the project manager on 01384 815813 to apply.

Canal visitor centre plans put on display

Ambitious plans to build a canal-side visitor centre in Dudley have gone on show to the public. Bosses at Dudley Canal Trust have been working on detailed plans for the scheme.

There is an application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Their initial proposals went on display at a special open day at the attraction off Birmingham New Road to see what the public thought about the scheme so far and what improvements could be made.

The learning and access hub, as it will be known, could be open to the public in 2013 and it's hoped a planning application for the development will be submitted this summer.

Heritage

It will be built on the opposite side of the water to where the ticket office is currently located.

The hub would offer people the chance to learn about the heritage of the area.

The Black Country in the 19th Century and the role of the Birmingham Canal Navigations in the Industrial Revolution could be featured. It is hoped the development will help boost visitor numbers to the attraction which welcomes 80,000 people a year.

Trust general manager June Hodgkiss said: "We showed the plans for the building so people know what is planned and can tell us their thoughts. We have had



Looking at the plans are Jackie and Bob Mullen of Himley

some really good responses."

The trust has already secured a £118,000 development grant from the lottery fund to help draw up the plans and the second round application, for more than £500,000 worth of funding, is expected to be submitted by November this year.

Among those who went along to

look at the plans was Jackie and Bob Mullen from Himley who are both members of the canal trust.

Mr Mullen, aged 63, said: "This development is more than needed, it is a must." Children who went along to the event were also able to take part in a balloon race with the one which travels the furthest set to win a prize.

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Arthur Bostrom takes a ride on a train at the Severn Valley Railway



Saying farewell during the 40s weekend are Maria-Elena Ridgway and Jake Pickering



Cast members John D Collins, Sue Hodges, Kim Hartman, Guy Siner and Arthur Bostrom have fun



Kim Hartman, Guy Siner and Arthur Bostrom

'Allo, 'Allo, ah weel say zis only once TV stars are 'ere

Cast members from hit TV sitcom 'Allo 'Allo joined hundreds of visitors to turn back the clock at the first of two 1940s weekends at the Severn Valley Railway.

Guests were greeted by the stars as they entered the light-hearted journey re-living wartime Britain, last weekend.

Attractions included costumed re-enactors, military vehicles, an air-raid shelter, 1940s displays, fashion shows and sale stands.

A host of other treats also awaited passengers at each of the stations along the 16-mile line

between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

Staff at the railway now hope the second weekend, this Saturday and Sunday (July 2 and 3), will see even more visitors turn out to see the 1980s BBC cast.

David Mee, visitor services manager at the Severn Valley Railway, said: "The weekend was really good, everyone was on top form and the visitors looked like they were having a great time."

"Judging by how full the platforms and trains were we are expecting visitor numbers to be up once again and hope for the same turnout this coming weekend."

The special appearance was arranged by Kidderminster actor

Craig Leonard, who directs cast appearances through his company, the Props Resources Department.

Experience

Craig, who was once an extra in the show, said: "The first weekend went really well."

"All the visitors loved seeing the cast at their first ever signing at a 1940s event."

"We hope that weekends like this will help attract even more visitors to the railway as it is something really special for everyone to experience."

For more details visit www.svr.co.uk or to book tickets call 01299 403816 by noon tomorrow (July 1).



Tickets please! SVR station master Geoff Smith, second left, with, from left, cast members John D Collins, Sue Hodges, Kim Hartman, Guy Siner and Arthur Bostrom

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Tribunal win over one drink

A senior technician manager won a tribunal claim against his former employers after being dismissed for smelling of alcohol at work.

Brian Hicks, of Netherend Lane, Halesowen, had made a compensation claim for unfair dismissal and breach of contract against Mapei UK Ltd of Steelmark Road, Halesowen, with whom he had been employed for 17 years with a clean record.

Mr Hicks admitted he had a pint of beer on the morning of visiting a customer but was fully capable of doing his work.

The tribunal decided Mr Hicks was not guilty of gross misconduct and had not brought the firm into disrepute. The hearing was briefly adjourned to allow parties to decide whether a private settlement should be made.

On resumption the tribunal was told that the firm had agreed to make an undisclosed settlement.

Two hurt in road smash

Eight people were caught in a three-vehicle crash.

An AA van, a saloon car and a Nissan crashed at the traffic lights near the Audi garage in Manor Way, Halesowen.

A woman and teenage girl were taken to Russells Hall Hospital. The male driver and three children were given the all clear at the scene as were the drivers of the Nissan and AA van.

Man took drug cocktail

A former charity worker died after a dangerous cocktail of drugs and alcohol, an inquest heard.

Franklin Lloyd, aged 57, was found dead at his home in Belle Vale, Halesowen, on February 5, where he had lived with his mother for 10 years since his divorce.

Coroner's officer Margaret Collins said there had been an ongoing dispute with his neighbour over noise, although others believed it may have

been imagined. Despite notes left behind friends believed he had not intended to take his own life on February 5 as he had not finished planning his own funeral.

Consultant pathologist Dr Swapna Ghosh said the combination of drugs and alcohol would have shut down his central nervous system. Black Country coroner Mr Robin Balmain, at Dudley Coroner's Court last week, recorded an open verdict.

Police holding meetings

Police in Halesowen are holding two meetings for residents to have their say on local issues.

Officers are running the Police and Communities Together meetings for the residents of Halesowen South and Hayley Green & Cradley South.

The Halesowen South meeting will take place on Wednesday July 6, 7pm at Manor Way School, Brier Mill Road, Halesowen.

The Hayley Green and Cradley South event will be held on Friday, July 15 at 7pm at the Healthy Hub building, Huntingtree Park.

Sergeant Wendy Tyler, from Halesowen police station, said: "The meetings are a chance for residents to inform local officers about things they are happy with or indeed issues which concern them." Call 0345 113 5000 ext 7903 6423 or visit www.dudleypolice.org.uk

Sporty fun lined up in park



Jack Green, aged eight, with park rangers Katie Deeley and Dave Scott, and other youngsters taking part in the Activezone sessions at Huntingtree Park

Youngsters will be getting sporty at a park in Halesowen over the summer holidays.

A range of outdoor activities including football, cricket, rounders and hockey are being held at Huntingtree Park between August 1 and September 4. The free sessions are being run by the park rangers, including Katie Deeley.

She said: "The sessions have proved really successful over the last two half-term holidays. "We usually have around 30 children who come along

each day. The youngsters really enjoy themselves and get to try a whole range of different sports." The outdoor activities at the park are included in Dudley Council's summer Activezone programme of events, which are open to youngsters aged five to 16.

Other activities taking place throughout the borough over the summer include team games, nature activities, den building and craft workshops. To view the programme in full go to www.dudley.gov.uk/sport or call 01384 815594.

Care home puts on fete

A residential home in Halesowen will host its annual summer fete to help raise funds for the building.

Friends of Grange Hill House, Bromsgrove Road, have organised entertainment and stalls for the event on Sunday July 10, from 2pm until 4pm.

There will be fun for the entire family as well as a grand raffle with more than 60 prizes.

Admission is free and on-site parking will be available.

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Wayne Groves displaying his Kickstart certificate

A search to find 100 of the best young people in Sandwell and Dudley to fill job opportunities is being launched.

It is part of a new £1.85 million push to get young people into training and employment across the Black Country.

Teenagers are being urged to get in touch with the Kickstart: Gold scheme if they are not in education, employment or training to arrange an interview with a view to gaining employment and an apprenticeship place.

A series of recruitment events are being held in Sandwell and Dudley next month (July) to find 200 16-18-year-olds who would benefit from the scheme, which is being run by Oldbury-based BCTG.

BCTG, based in Taylors Lane, recently secured £1.85 million from the Skills Funding Agency, the Young Peoples Learning Agency and the European Social Fund (ESF) to run the new programme across Dudley and Sandwell.

It has commissioned a host of skilled training providers who will work alongside young people and provide job placements and give them a

"kick start" back into learning and employment.

Kickstart: Gold follows on from an earlier scheme called Kick Start Life, which helped young people like 17-year-old Wayne Groves (pictured).

Wayne recently met West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey during a visit to BCTG, when it announced it had secured funding for the new Kickstart: Gold programme in May.

The 17-year-old, from Tipton, has gone from leaving school without any qualifications to now starting an apprenticeship in vehicle fitting with training provider NACRO having successfully completed the earlier Kick Start Life programme.

Wayne said: "If it wasn't for Kick Start, I wouldn't be doing anything now. Instead I've got more confidence and am now doing an apprenticeship in vehicle fitting."

Mr Bailey said: "I am impressed by BCTG's work in this area with their skills and the commitment they bring to making life better for young people."

Chris Luty, BCTG director, said: "The aim of Kickstart: Gold is to give young people a kick start back into learning which will then lead to a place at college, an apprenticeship or employment."

"In Wayne's case it has led to a future with good training and an apprenticeship so he can go out and get a job."

"We are holding two recruitment events in July to help other young people who like Wayne will benefit from the programme and who will get help to find work with proper training attached to it."

These events are in conjunction with the recruitment arm of BCTG "The Apprenticeship Works" who are specialists in recruiting young people into employment and apprenticeships with local employers. Young people have the chance to earn a decent wage whilst learning and gaining recognised qualifications.

"We are encouraging school leavers and those young people who are currently not in education, employment or training to call us and book an interview at any one of the four recruitment events."

To be in with a chance of getting one of 100 places currently available contact BCTG advisers on 0845 873 3855.

The recruitment days are on July 19 at the Station Hotel in Dudley and July 25 at The Public in West Bromwich.



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Big day surprise for wedding guests



Linda Plant weds David Homer

A couple from Dudley have held a wedding with a twist by keeping the details of their nuptials top secret until their guests turned up to celebrate the happy occasion.

Nurse Linda Plant and her new husband David Homer, a sign company boss, decided they wanted to do something a bit different when they tied the knot at the Cradley Heath Workers' Institute at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley on Saturday.

The happy couple, who have been living together for more than eight years, invited guests to their home in Withymoor Village, Brierley Hill.

Once they arrived they then boarded a Black Country Tours bus which took them first to Himley

Hall where they enjoyed a picnic before heading on to the tourist attraction where they had decided to hold their nuptials.

They even kept the details of their wedding secret from Linda's daughters Harriet, aged 23, and Charlotte, 21, as well as David's bestman and brother, Ian.

Edwardian

The couple decided on the venue after Linda, a community nurse, visited to pick up an award for her work from Dudley Primary Care Trust and thought it would be a lovely place for the ceremony.

They also decided to theme the wedding around the Edwardian era.

And they celebrated afterwards by holding their reception in the museum's pub.

Guests were thrilled with the surprise.

Linda's daughter Harriet said: "We were so shocked and amazed. It could not have been better."

David's brother Ian, from Willenhall, added: "We got on the bus at their house and we went first to Himley Hall and we thought it was there but then we had a picnic and it was back onto the bus."

"We were all thinking where could it be and when we went past Priory Park we wondered if it could be there but what they had planned was so unusual."

The bride said: "We wanted to do something a bit different as that is what we do with our group of friends, such as go on surprise holidays. It was a fabulous day," he added.

Village fair a big lift for charities

More than 11,000 people turned out to enjoy an array of attractions at Kinver Country Fair, which raised £8,000 for local charities.

The recent annual event, shelved last year due to major roadworks, was described as the best ever. The main attraction was a parade through the High Street led by horses from the Midlands Heavy Horse Association.

The parade also featured members of Kinver Pre School, morris dancers and a performance by a street band called Bang On Street.

Adjacent

There were also a number of stalls set up in the High Street, and for the first time, on the adjacent Stag Meadow field. Andy Calloway, one of the organisers, said: "It was better than we expected and we've had lots of comments from people saying it was the best Kinver Country Fair ever."

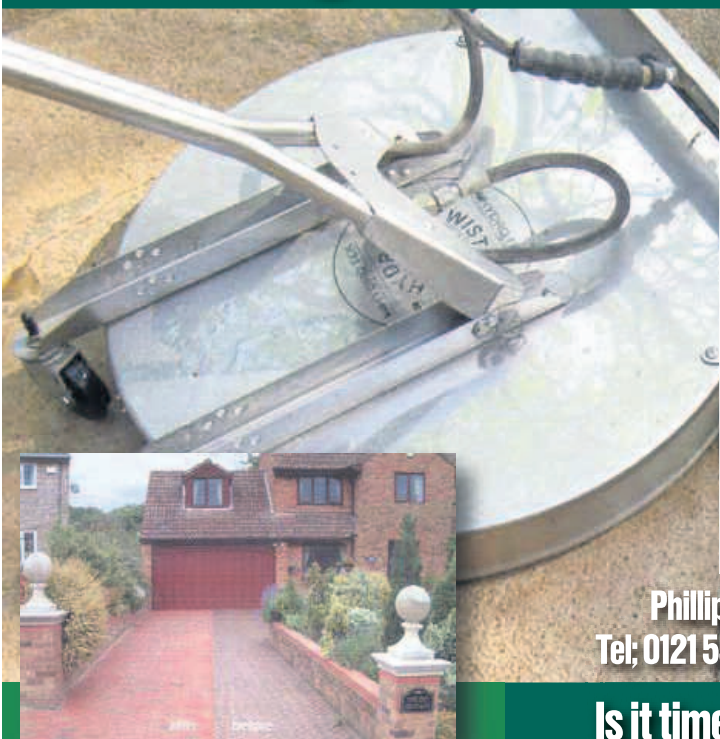
Gill Snape and Pauline Rutter represented the Compton Hospice Shop in Kinver and ran a rocking horse raffle. Pauline said: "It is always a good event."

Michelle Thornley, aged 39, from Kinver went along with her children, Mia, six, and Harrison, three. She said: "We come every year it is on. Everyone really seems to have made a big effort this year."



Gill Snape and Pauline Rutter from the Compton Hospice Shop in Kinver

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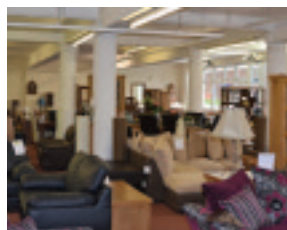
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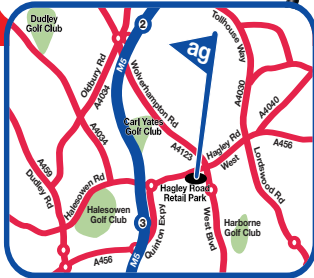
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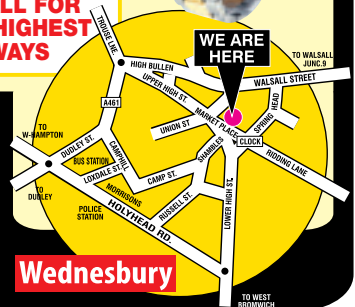
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Thieves hurl metal from car

Thieves who stole scaffolding from a Dudley building site led police on a chase, throwing the metal from their car as they fled.

A gang struck at the old Wordsley Hospital site, which is being converted into new homes. They were spotted dismantling the scaffolding by a member of the public, who alerted police.

As officers arrived, a Ford Fiesta was driving from the site. Police pursued them down the A491 Lydiate Ash, and watched as scaffolding poles were thrown into the street from the car.

The Fiesta eventually stopped a mile away from the site, on Windermere Drive, Kingswin-

ford. Three men have been questioned in connection with the theft.

Sergeant Chris Fox, said: "We continue to tackle metal theft across the area and officers aim to respond quickly and effectively where such incidents occur in order to detain people suspected of involvement in such crimes."

Three men, one aged 20 and two aged 24, have been arrested on suspicion of theft.

One of the 24-year-olds was also arrested on suspicion of taking a vehicle without authority and driving whilst disqualified. It comes as police in the

Wyre Forest revealed metal thieves had struck 140 times at in the area over the last three months.

Homes and businesses have been targeted as the price of scrap metal rises.

West Mercia Police revealed they had 60 metal thefts reported in April, 49 in May and 31 this month.

Earlier this month £50,000 of lead was stripped from the old Morrisons supermarket in New Road, Kidderminster while £6,000 of metal children's play equipment was taken from the former Crown Inn pub, Old Chester Road South.

Pensioner lands £2,700 court bill over home battle

A PENSIONER who has battled to stay in her own home with her rescue dogs for four years has been landed with a £2,735 court bill after falling foul of planning rules.

Eileen James, aged 71, refused to move from her caravan near Stourport, despite not having planning permission, because she feared that she would have to give up her animals to move into council housing.

She was found in breach of a council enforcement notice and fined £1,500. She must also pay costs and a victim surcharge totalling £1,235.

Worcester magistrates' court heard she bought land at Heighthington View, near Astley Burf, in June 2006 as somewhere to walk her animals where they could run free away from people.

A few months later she moved into the caravan on the site, believing she could live there after receiving a form about council tax.

The previous owner had planning permission to live there but this expired after his death a few years earlier.

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In November 2006, Mrs James received an enforcement notice from Malvern Hills District Council saying she must stop living there and remove the caravan and outbuildings so land could return to agricultural use.

Mother-of-five Mrs James was unsuccessful appealing and in August 2007 given six months to comply. The court heard she still lived in the caravan although all but one outbuilding was removed.

Application

Mrs James, unrepresented, said she applied for council housing but was told she would not be given a house where she could take her six dogs. "I'm not giving up my dogs. Where I go, my dogs go," she added.

The volunteer for Wyre Forest charity Forest Dog Rescue said that she could not afford private housing and had taken steps to get planning permission for a home on the site but had not submitted an application.

Mrs James said that she would now look into submitting a planning application for the site.

House! Officers' bingo call

Police will visit a Dudley bingo night to give players advice on crime.

Officers will advise them on prevention during at Fens Pool Community Centre, Dudley.

Pc Natalie Taylor said: "The team work very closely with the crime prevention officer in order to assist members of the public in keeping themselves and their property safe and hopefully preventing them from becoming victims of crime."

"Bingo night at Fens Pool Community Centre always has a good turnout with a range of local residents attending."

"This is an ideal location for the neighbourhood team to mix with residents and answer any questions they might have."

Leaflets will be handed out and officers will be there to give tips on staying safe.

Pc Angela Hodgetts said: "Personal safety alarms will be distributed to the elderly and vulnerable". The event takes place on July 21 at 7.30pm.

Students' artwork on display



Keleigh Faulkner with her artwork which went on display at Dudley College

Art students at Dudley College showcased their work at an end-of-year exhibition.

Youngsters on the art and design course at Dudley College put together the display as part of Arts Fest at the Mons Hill Campus.

Visitors were able to view the work completed by students who have

studied on various creative arts courses at the college, including art and design, graphics, media photography, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, music, costume and theatre production.

The display, which the college used to attract possible new students, has now closed.

Start of repairs for basin

Repairs costing £350,000 to stabilise a rock face at risk of collapse at Dudley's Castle Mill Basin are under way after engineers discovered it was in danger of crumbling.

The work, which involves supporting the wall with reinforced concrete, is taking place in Castle Hill in a bid to protect the historic limestone mines from a landslide.

The rock face, set back from the stretch of canal used by visitors and boat trippers, experi-

enced several small rock falls before engineers discovered it the bank face was in danger of crumbling.

Work started at the beginning of May, and is expected to be completed by September.

Environment chief Councillor David Stanley, said the work had included concrete piling installed along the boundary of the canal basin to support a reinforced concrete stepped wall.

"All design works have been completed," he said.

"Although the physical works are taking place in an area of the canal away from the main visitor attraction, we have been working closely with Dudley Canal Trust to minimise any impact," added Councillor Stanley.

The tunnel entrance near the rock face is currently blocked off while the work goes on.

However, trust officials have said the work will help preserve the area for when the basin is reopened at some point in the future.

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Screening equipment

New hi-tech equipment has been unveiled in Dudley aimed at helping to improve the diagnosis of breast cancer.

Dudley Breast Screening service says the improved equipment should reduce the need for repeat appointments. The new unit opened earlier this week before moving to sites around the borough as part of its three-yearly screening programme.

The programme is aimed at women aged between 50 and 70 registered with a Dudley GP. Amanda Harborne, the service's superintendent, said: "The new digital unit allows images to be seen immediately by the radiographer before they are sent to Russell's Hall Hospital for reporting - reducing the need for repeat screening."

"The quality of images and the ability to digitally manipulate them on the computer screen also makes it much more efficient than the traditional films. Women often think that a mammogram will be more uncomfortable than it actually is. They will be out of the unit within around 15 minutes of their appointment time."



Two of the designs for the planned sculptures



Designs on show for nature reserve

Designs of new sculptures and attractions which will take pride of place within a Black Country nature reserve have been on display.

Work started last year on a £1.1 million improvements scheme at the Severn Sisters limestone mines and caverns at Wrens Nest Nature Reserve, in Wrens Nest, Dudley.

Artists and representatives from the project held a consultation event at St Francis Church, off Laurel Road, Wrens Nest to gather views and opinions on designs for the scheme.

Schoolchildren and residents came forward to help artists create ideas for land-

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marks which would be installed at the nature reserve. These include story stones on which residents' memories of the reserve will be carved alongside geological facts. Sensory plaques and other crafted stones showing the types of fossils found at the famed geological site will also be erected.

Memories

Julie Edwards and her colleague Ron Thompson, from Walsall-based firm Planet Art, were tasked with creating a series of drawings.

"We have really enjoyed hearing what people have got to say about the designs and also finding out their memories of the nature reserve which we hope will be captured in the final design," said Julie.

A selection of these will eventually be chosen ready to be installed for a ceremony on September 27.

The ceremony will mark the 55th anniversary of it being recognised as the first national nature reserve for geology.

Dudley Council learning and community development officer Jessica Welch said: "It would be great if when the children visit they can think they had a part in forming the designs which will be here for years to come," she said.

Tourism bosses hope the project will boost visitor figures from 12,000 to around 20,000 a year.

The Step Shaft Mine at Dudley lost out on a bid for £50 million of lottery cash. But £800,000 sourced from the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled works to continue.

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Thousands step out to help raise £103,000



Freya's Walkers took part in the walk in honour of Freya, including her mother Claire Felton, front left



Tammy Freeman and Kerry Hall dress up for the walk

Thousands of fundraisers took to the streets alongside celebrities for a 10-mile charity walk to raise £103,000 for poorly children.

More than 3,500 people gathered at Himley Hall, some dressed as schoolgirls, cowboys and cartoon characters for the trek to Wolverhampton Racecourse in Dunstall.

Among those taking part was Claire Felton, whose five-year-old daughter Freya suffers from hereditary pancreatitis and has been supported by Promise Dreams. The 33-year-old, from Willenhall, took along 27 friends for the walk.

"I signed up on the first day," she said. "Freya has a genetic disorder which she will have for the rest of her life. Promise Dreams bought her a

wendy house which she loves and took her to see Disney's Princesses on Ice and they phone to check on her."

"The charity is very close to our hearts. We called ourselves Freya's Walkers but we were doing it so the charity can help other poorly children."

Former Wolves players Steve Bull and Don Goodman joined Wolverhampton-born TV presenter Suzi Perry and singer Beverley Knight for the event, the inaugural Walk of the Black Country, which was organised by Beacon Radio.

Beacon Radio spokesman Kate Fuller said: "It was such an amazing day."

A special mention needs to go to the marshals and sponsors."

Killer's plan for release

Tracie Andrews, who was jailed for killing her fiancé in a roadside attack, is planning a return to hairdressing on her release from prison.

Andrews, now aged 42, is said to have been attending hairdressing tutorials in prison in York.

The former hairdresser and model stabbed Lee Harvey 37 times with a penknife in a quiet country lane called Coopers Hill, Alvechurch.

She was jailed for life for the attack in December 1996, with a recommendation that she serve at least 14 years.

In the days following the killing, Andrews had given a police press con-

ference claiming Mr Harvey had been murdered by a 'staring fat-eyed man' in a road rage attack. It has been reported that Andrews recently has been trying out new hairdressing skills.

It was claimed people have been sending her money in prison which Andrews spends on beauty products and fashions.

Andrews, who now calls herself Tia Carter, could be eligible for release later this year.

Andrews has previously been allowed out on day trips to help her adjust to life after prison.

Halesowen *imag* SUMMER 2011



thechronicle

community information guide

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Tim Newey serves up great ales and food at Ma Pardoe's

Community information guide - imag



Michael and Dawn O'Neill have transformed the Court House, Sedgley

The real deal a bostin' pint

IN keeping with a borough steeped in history, the many excellent pubs throughout the Dudley area are testament to a region still very much in touch with its roots.

Indeed, for many lovers of real ale, including CAMRA co-founder Michael Hardman, Dudley and its surrounding towns present a range of beers and traditional pubs unrivalled anywhere else in the country.

In Dudley itself, The Court House in New Street is something of a local success story, having been transformed in recent years from a somewhat uninviting venue into a welcoming historic hostelry with a fine range of beers from Black Country Ales.

Owners Michael and Dawn O'Neill and their team work hard to ensure this fine

old pub, which was revamped to the tune of £100,000, is a comfortable, cosy environment popular with drinkers of all ages.

This pub's appeal is also helped along by Mick's quirky sense of humour, which earlier this year, saw him order in real turf to convert one part of the pub into a race-course for the Grand National.

No mention of bostin' Black Country beers would be complete without mentioning Bathams.

Eager

It has a range of ales held in such regard nationally there is a waiting list of pubs across the country eager to get their bitter and mild on the pumps. The brewery has pubs across the borough.

Travelling just outside of Dudley, there is a wide range of superb pubs on offer in Upper Gornal.

As well as being home to the Black Country Traditional Ales brewery, this area also features such gems as The Foun

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Wednesday (* Additional cost)	20.00-22.00	Ju-Jitsu	
	18.00-18.30	Aerobics Blast	
	18.30-19.30	Pump	
Thursday	19.30-20.30	Pilates	
	18.00-19.00	Circuit	
	19.00-20.00	Boxercise Punch	
Friday	20.00-21.00	Zumba	
	18.00-19.30	Fitness Yoga	
Saturday (* Additional cost)	9.00-9.30	Cardio Blast	
	9.30-10.30	Pump	
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Community information guide - imag



Emily Sadler and Russell Grindley at the Windsor Castle Brewery

if you want of beer . . .

tain, which serves a constantly-rotating selection of meals and snacks.

Heading towards Sedgley, The Jolly Crispin promises a festival of beer every day, with a comfortable lounge and excellent views from its beer garden.

In Sedgley itself lies one of the region's most highly-prized pubs, the multiple award-winning Beacon Hotel, home to the famous Sarah Hughes Brewery.

People travel from all over the country to sit in this unique pub, which has changed little since being bought by Sarah Hughes in 1921.

Beers on offer include the regular trio of Surprise (known locally as simply 'Sedgley'), Pale Amber and the famous Ruby Mild, which, at 6 per cent ABV, is anything but.

There are also two ever-changing guest ales to try.

A particular feature of this friendly pub is its unique hexagonal bar, which features stained glass windows and quirky serving

hatches, where people have to stoop in order to be served.

Another great pub to try when in Sedgley is The Stump - a traditional pub with three comfortable rooms and a good selection of expertly-served ales.

Over in Netherton lies another legendary local, in the shape of The Old Swan, or Ma Pardoe's as it is more commonly known.

Features

Like The Beacon, this lovingly-restored Victorian pub is served by a tower brewery behind the premises, with landlord Tim Newey serving up Olde Swan Original, Dark Swan and Bumblehole.

In addition to fine ales, Ma Pardoe's also serves an excellent range of home-made food in its Granary Loft restaurant.

More good reasons to visit this pub include the many period features on display throughout its several rooms - especially the stunning front bar, which



Sample the fines ales and unique features of The Beacon Hotel, Sedgley

has its own separate door leading out onto the street and a huge enamel mural of a swan on the ceiling.

The town of Stourbridge is also home to some great real ale pubs which have been restored to their former glory, including The Plough and Harrow in Worcester Street and The Duke William, in Coventry Street.

And, close to the town centre, pubs in Amblecote such as the Robin Hood and The Swan are also well worth a visit.

A short distance away, in Lye, lies another of the region's gems - the Windsor Castle, which is home to the excellent Sadler's brewery and its numerous beers, including Mud City Stout and Stumbling Badger.

It's also a great place to eat, with a superb choice of regional favourites, tapas, gourmet burgers from every corner of the globe and inspired specials, all presented and served with flair.

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Community information guide - imag



Take a fascinating journey into the network of tunnels and caverns running below Dudley

Tunnel vision to past and future

SOMETIMES it's worth looking beneath the surface to discover something truly amazing.

And, this is certainly the case with Dudley's intricate network of underground canal routes that played a vital role in the Black Country's industrial success.

Take a trip with Dudley Canal Trust, where the whole family can hop onboard a barge and marvel at the breathtaking limestone caverns carved by people in their search for raw materials to make iron, the foundation of the 19th century Black Country. As part of the excursion, visitors can learn about the history and formation of limestone and the fossilization of small creatures and plant life from a stunning audio visual presentation.

Discover the art of legging, often forgot-

ten about in today's busy modern times, in a network of underground canal routes. Sit back and enjoy the skipper guided tour as the trust's experienced boatmen take visitors on a magical journey that is fun and informative, relaxed and exciting.

The canal trust's history goes back to 1963, when the Dudley Canal Tunnel Preservation Society was formed to protect the tunnel, and in particular to oppose the railway plans to block the Tipton portal with an embankment.

Singing

In 1970 the society became the Dudley Canal Trust, the campaign was successful, and developments continued with the tunnel and Parkhead Locks which were reopened to form a through route in 1973.

In 1984 with Grant Aid help, the trust built the first new canal tunnel for 126 years connecting into the singing cavern.

The year 1989 saw the opening of yet

another new tunnel, this time allowing the trust's passenger boats to complete a unique underground circular trip.

The Dudley Canal Trust formed a limited company dedicated to organising trips, so that staff, at one time all volunteers, would be able to provide the best possible service.

Nowadays, more than 80,000 passengers per year enjoy a voyage into Dudley's underground industrial heritage.

Any trading surplus from the organised trips is given annually to Dudley Canal Trust to help maintain the tunnel, Dudley canal and its environment.

Boats run every 30 minutes (fifteen minutes on bank holidays and busy times) from 10am, with the last boat leaving an hour before closing time. Trips run every day until October, from 10am until 5pm.

See www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk for more details or call 01384 236 275.

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Community information guide - imag



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One of the West Midlands Safari Park's tigers

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Viewed

The animal reserves can get busy at peak time (11am-2pm). If you arrive during this time, consider parking first, visit all the other attractions – like Discovery Trail and amusement area – and return to the animal reserves after 3pm, when it is often less busy.

The Discovery Trail includes many creatures that can be viewed up close – there is even a sealion show at various times throughout the day.

The amusement area, situated beyond the Hippo Lakes and Discovery Zone, has a wide variety of 3fun rides and attractions

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thechronicle

Tale of rural nostalgia

A MUCH-LOVED rural tale about growing up in the Cotswold countryside, Laurie Lee's *Cider With Rosie*, has been adapted for the stage by James Roose-Evans.

The production by Oldbury Repertory Theatre at the Barlow Theatre in Langley runs from July 9 to 16 (excluding Sunday). Showtime is 7.30pm and tickets cost £7.50, concessions £6.50 and £5.50 on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Call (0121) 552 2761. Pictured are members of the cast.



Reviews

Jonathan Ansell and Friends, Wolverhampton Grand

Jonathan Ansell had the audience at The Grand Theatre eating out of his hand the minute he stepped onto the stage.

He certainly knows how to please his audience by leaving the stage, dancing with and kissing the hands of the ladies in the front row.

His performances of operatic and traditional classics, show tunes and pieces from his former group G4 were magnificent. He still has The X Factor with his sensational tenor voice that brings up the goose bumps.

Joining him and his band on stage were two excellent male vocalists and the lovely voice of Helena Blackman, a finalist in *TV's How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?*

The powerful Barcelona, Bohemian Rhapsody, Somebody To Love and the emotional Danny Boy, My Way, You Raised Me Up were sung with spine tingling perfection by Ansell.

The second half of the show included a question and answer session, which was part serious and part comical.

Nessum Dorma to close the show received loud cheers and a well deserved standing ovation.

Les Jowett

Fleet Foxes, Wolverhampton Civic

HARMONIOUS American folk-rockers the Fleet Foxes will never go down as electrifying performers. The scruffy band of hirsute Americans potter about between songs, doing a bit of tuning up and maybe, very occasionally, mumbling something to the audience.

But the eloquence is in their music, a spine-tingling collection of original songs, each hinting at a plot worthy of a Cormac McCarthy novel of 'American gothic'. The vocal harmonies suggest a kind of backwoods Beach Boys.

Main singer and songwriter Robin Pecknold's acoustic guitar remained to the fore but this night the Foxes unleashed a harsher sound, propelled by Josh Tillman's drumming. Maybe it was their way of warming up for the ultimate outdoor gig of Glastonbury but I felt it robbed Pecknold of some of his fluent lyrics.

Early favourites Mykonos and White Winter Hymnal go down well with the capacity audience, though the whole 80-minute set was well-received.

Unusually, the Fleet Foxes play to an audience who in many cases are probably old enough to

be their parents, music fans who I would guess have a considerable number of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Neil Young albums, and maybe a few Simon and Garfunkel LPs, in their music collections.

We were treated to a rare joke from Pecknold towards the end of the gig. Remembering that their last Civic concert two years ago happened on the night Michael Jackson's death was announced, Pecknold quipped: "I think we've got away with it tonight, Janet and Tito are fine, I'm told."

He returned for an encore including a gorgeous solo acoustic Oliver James and the latest album's stunning title track Helplessness Blues. Pecknold looked totally at ease and I couldn't help wondering if a solo career beckons.

A review of Thursday night's gig would not be complete without a mention of support band The Bees. The multi-instrumentalists, adept at swapping instruments from keyboards to trumpets, are the Isle of Wight's finest export and managed the rare feat of tempting the majority of the audience out of the bars to check out their Latin-tinged quirky pop-rock sound.

Leon Burakowski

Outdoor show is set in woods

A PROFESSIONAL theatre company is set to perform at a Smethwick woods for the second year running.

After the success of Theatre in the Woods last year, Warley Woods Community Trust is welcoming back Heartbreak Productions to perform Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* tomorrow night (Friday).

The production is part of their national tour, celebrating 20 years of their outdoor performances.

Picnics

Audience members are encouraged to bring their own seats or rugs and picnics if they wish. The show will start at 7.30pm but the performance area will be open from 6.30pm onwards.

Tickets can be bought on (0121) 429 2440, at the shop at The Pavilion at Lightwoods Hill. Tickets cost £12 adults, £10 children and £35 for a family ticket.

Andy Irvine, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

DUBLIN balladeer Andy Irvine has a folk pedigree as good as anyone's and at the arts centre in Whitmore Reans he brought his wealth of experience, with groups such as Planxty and Sweeney's Men, with the tradition of uncluttered folk music.

Even if you didn't know he was one of Irvine's heroes his earthy similarity and musical observation would immediately remind you of the great Woody Guthrie. Irvine's skill with the range of guitars he brings is incredible to watch and wonderful to listen to. The singer's subtle banter both about and between the songs enthralled the audience, most notably with the Spirit of Mother Jones, about a union activist who was a thorn in the side of American industrialists.

The traditional themes are there of love, betrayal and adventures on the sea. One in particular, Close Shave had the audience in fits of laughter at the misfortune of a sailor fond of the drink.

Dubliners

He brings with him his musical playfulness in songs such as Monaghans which recount his days in Dublin rubbing shoulders with the likes of Ronnie Drew and Barney McKenna of The Dubliners. Irvine was a child actor and one of his first appearances and his mother's last was at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton, which he recalled fondly.

As you would expect he played some of the tracks from his new album *Abocurragh* including Empty Handed and Oslo/Norwegian Mazurka, which allowed him to really give his fingers a work out and impress the audience with his playing skills.

Danny Farragher



Hannah Vincent, aged 17, Megan McNeil, 18, and Molly Turner, 11, with members of the Langley Youth Theatre who will appear in *Peter Pan*

Cast will fly into action

A CHILDREN'S classic will be brought to life when young Sandwell actors take to the stage next week.

Members of Langley Youth Theatre have been rehearsing for months for their production of *Peter Pan* at the Netherton Arts Centre, Northfield Road, on July 8 and 9.

The theatre group, made up of 60 people, will be travelling from London

to Neverland thanks to the scenery created by Nick Vincent.

He said: "A handful of people in the group have got experience and some have come in from other theatre groups and operatic societies but others are quite new to acting."

The curtain will go up raised for performances at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10. Call 07415 443778.

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ARTHRITIS CARE	0115 952 5522	NEIGHBOURHOOD MEDIATION SERVICE	01389 772 048
ASTHMA UK	0800 121 6244	NHS DIRECT	0845 4647
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY	01455 883300	NSPCC	0808 800 5000
BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION	0300 330 3311	RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT CENTRE	08451 221331
BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION	08458 505020	RELATE	01902 428447
CITY DOCTORS ON CALL/GP OUT OF HOURS	0300 555 4566	ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND	0303 123 9999
CHILDLINE	0800 1111	ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEAF PEOPLE	0808 808 0123
CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU	01384 816181	SAMARITANS	01384 78111
CRIMESTOPPERS		SANDWELL COUNCIL	0845 3582200
(anonymous freephone number for reporting crime)	0800 555 111	SEVERN TRENT WATER	024 7771 5000
CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE	01384 262878	SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATER	0800 389 1011
DIABETES UK	01922 61450	STOP SMOKING CAMPAIGN (NHS)	0800 022 4332
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1:00 *Crime Scene Investigation* **2:00** *Crime Scene Investigation* **2:30** *15 Minutes* *Ladies of the House* (2008) *Thriller*, starring Jessica York
3:00 *S. News* at *S. Weather* **5:30** *Highway* (F)
6:00 *Home and Away* (F) **6:25** *CSI* (F) **7:00** *CSI* (F)
8:00 *Danger: Digging at Work* *S. News* at *S. 5* **8:30** *Loose Talkers* **9:00** *Law & Order* **9:55** *CSI: Miami* (F)
11:35 *Inside Hollywood* **12:30** *SOXTRA* **12:40** *Supercenter* **1:05** *Motorport* **1:40** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* **11:00** *WFLA* **11:30** *WFLA* **12:00** *WFLA* **12:30** *WFLA* **1:00** *WFLA* **1:30** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* **11:00** *WFLA* **11:30** *WFLA* **12:00** *WFLA* **12:30** *WFLA* **1:00** *WFLA* **1:30** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* **11:00** *WFLA* **11:30** *WFLA* **12:00** *WFLA* **12:30** *WFLA* **1:00** *WFLA* **1:30** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* **11:00** *WFLA* **11:30** *WFLA* **12:00** *WFLA* **12:30** *WFLA* **1:00** *WFLA* **1:30** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* **11:00** *WFLA* **11:30** *WFLA* **12:00** *WFLA* **12:30** *WFLA* **1:00** *WFLA* **1:30** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* **11:00** *WFLA* **11:30** *WFLA* **12:00** *WFLA* **12:30** *WFLA* **1:00** *WFLA* **1:30** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* **11:00** *WFLA* **11:30** *WFLA* **12:00** *WFLA* **12:30** *WFLA* **1:00** *WFLA* **1:30** *WFLA* **2:00** *WFLA* **2:30** *WFLA* **3:00** *WFLA* **3:30** *WFLA* **4:00** *WFLA* **4:30** *WFLA* **5:00** *WFLA* **5:30** *WFLA* **6:00** *WFLA* **6:30** *WFLA* **7:00** *WFLA* **7:30** *WFLA* **8:00** *WFLA* **8:30** *WFLA* **9:00** *WFLA* **9:30** *WFLA* **10:00** *WFLA* **10:30** *WFLA* <

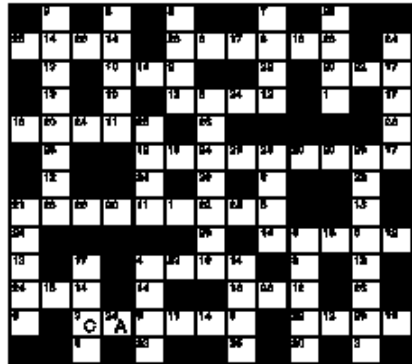
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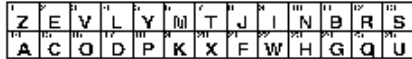
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Double Crossword

Choose either the quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- They indicate the strength of current potential (4)
- Foot has to yearn for a companion (10)
- What the organ pedal will produce (see below) (8)
- Its kind of right for this to apply to make for printing (4)
- Slide back - not here all travellers will get (12, 4)
- What is known to make a red hot (6)
- EMI influences one (see off all round) (6)
- A breakaway group apart of the back (10)
- It will hold up any bleeding thing (4)
- Present day choice by which the child may be taken in (8)
- Clear window needed (10)
- Part of the ship to turn upside down (4)

Down

- Lady Ildred? He may wish to be! (10)
- Strip of wood not quite big enough for roofing material (4)
- Not related to description of silent bells, see hear (6)
- Adapt some previous to influence the feelings (6)
- 17 On... showing demonstrations of elemental power (8, 6)
- State holding seat on influenced (4)
- Noted example of what can come from a fine soap (10)
- No million in this style can have a soothing effect (8)
- A light that will make you from ground level (6)
- See 6 Down
- Only a single man can perform it (4)
- It may go into battle, but not full of water (4)

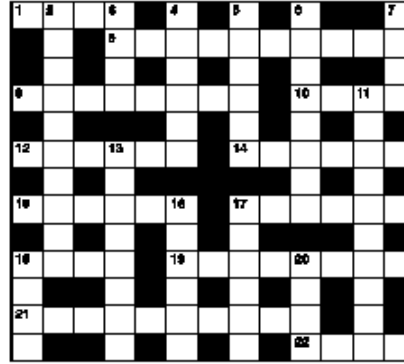
Quick Clues:

Across

- Prospect (4)
- Habitat (10)
- Region (8)
- Excursion (4)
- Skid (6)
- Overstep (6)
- Kind deed (6)
- Intelligent (6)
- Overorder (4)
- Ratty (8)
- Executive (10)
- Strip (4)

Down

- Score (10)
- Only action (4)
- Beginner (6)
- Small (6)
- Spaced (8)
- Rip (4)
- Without incident (10)
- Technical vocabulary (8)
- Lazy waste (6)
- Incapacitated (6)
- Delicate (4)
- Wave (4)



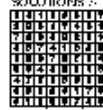
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1. Prospect, 10. Habitat, 15. Region, 21. Excursion, 22. Skid, 23. Overstep, 24. Kind deed, 25. Intelligent, 26. Overorder. Down: 1. Ratty, 2. Executive, 3. Strip, 4. Wave, 5. Delicate, 6. Incapacitated, 7. Lazy waste, 8. Vocabulary, 9. Action, 11. Beginner, 12. Small, 13. Spaced, 14. Without incident, 16. Score, 17. Only, 18. Technical, 19. Wave, 20. Delicate, 21. Prospect, 22. Skid, 23. Overstep, 24. Kind deed, 25. Intelligent, 26. Overorder.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:



Circlegam

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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Lakeland Autumn Gold

Pick of the week



★ PRICE FROM £189

FROM majestic fells to sparkling lakes, the English Lake District is a region of pure beauty which has inspired the work of many great writers, poets and artists.

Add to this the colours of autumn, which coat the landscape in a kaleidoscope of golden yellows, burnt oranges and crimson reds and there is a truly magical feel to the area.

During this short break you will be taken on two scenic coach tours. The first tour travels to the shores of Ullswater and continues via Glenridding and over the Kirkstone pass to Grasmere. Following some free time here, the tour continues via Thirlmere to Keswick, where you may choose to visit one of the town's many attractions or stroll around the quaint shops.

The second tour visits Conistone Water, where there will be some free time before continuing to Windermere and calling at Bowness on Windermere. Here you have the opportunity to take an optional leisurely cruise to Waterhead Pier. Finally, a visit is made to Ambleside, a town full of architectural treats such as the tiny 17th century house built on a bridge.

Price includes: return coach travel, three nights hotel accommodation, two coach tours as described, visits to Cockermouth and Kendal and the services of a tour driver.

INFO
Price from: £189
Accommodation: Half board
Departure date: October 14
Duration: Four days
Single supplements apply
Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Normandy by Eurostar

Five days
Various departure dates

★ PRICE FROM £419

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided historic walking tour of Rouen
- Visit to the Bayeux Tapestry and the Benedictine Palace (entrance not included)
- Visit to Honfleur
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Certain entrance fees payable locally
- Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

London by rail

Three days
Various departure dates

★ PRICE FROM £119.95

- Return standard class rail travel (first class offered for a supplement)
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Dubrovnik, Montenegro and the Dalmatian Coast

Eight days various departure dates

★ PRICE FROM £779

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Dubrovnik and Montenegro
- Visits to Krka National Park, Mostar and Trogir
- Visit to Split and tour of the Emperor Diocletian's palace
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Monet's Garden

Four days departing September 2

★ PRICE FROM £159.95

- Return coach travel
- Return channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visits to Paris and Rouen
- Visit to Giverny
- Admission to Monet's House and Gardens
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Top property guide for Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster

Water way to cope if the drought comes

I'm sure many of us basked in the glorious spring sunshine earlier this year, but beds, borders and pots were drying up before our eyes. Now, after one of the driest springs on record, some areas are in a state of a drought, raising fears of a possible accompanying hosepipe ban.

The Environment Agency has said that East Anglia is an area of concern. Other regions may escape drought status, but we all need to do our bit to save what water we do have.

The Environment Agency advises householders not to let water run to waste while waiting for the water to get hot. Collect it and use it to water your plants. Similarly, collect the running water in your shower before getting in.

Use water-retaining crystals when planting up container plants and invest in a water butt which you can put under a drainpipe or other suitable gully and re-use the water in your garden.

The Royal Horticultural society has come up with 10 tips to help save water this summer.

- 1) Use waste water from washing-up or rinsing vegetables for watering, as normal amounts of household soaps and detergents will not harm soil or plants.
- 2) Let your lawns go brown. They will recover when the rains return. Newly sown and turfed lawns will require a lot of watering to be successful, so leave sowing or turfing until the autumn. Lawn seed companies are breeding deeper rooted grasses that hopefully will stay green for longer. These will be worth considering, particularly in drier regions.
- 3) Vegetables need moist soils to give their best. Water them at key growth stages. The response to water is especially marked when sweetcorn, peas and beans begin to flower, when the edible part of lettuces begins to form and when potatoes show flower buds, which initiate plenty of tubers. Most herbs are robust and better flavoured for a little drought. Digging in organic matter in winter can enable soils to hold enough water for crops to keep going for a month with no rain.

Hedges

4) Mature trees, shrubs and climbers, hedges, fruit trees and bushes will not need watering during a drought. However, newly planted trees, shrubs and climbers are extremely vulnerable and it is difficult to ensure the water applied at the surface works its way down to the roots. Don't leave hoses running all night - the water will either saturate the roots and possibly kill them or it will drain deeply below the root zone. Water should always be applied over the surface so it soaks the rootball and surrounding soil.

5) Fruit may remain small if not watered, but it should be sweet and well coloured. Cane fruit and strawberries will benefit by keeping the soil moist every two weeks. In future adding mulches in winter will help improve the soil and retain more moisture.

6) In sunny summers install greenhouse and conservatory shading and ventilation to limit overheating and invest in a min-max thermometer.

7) By grouping pots, ideally in clusters of similar size, watering is made easier and moisture loss reduced. Mass pots for mutual shading and use the largest pots possible. As days lengthen and the sun rises, more plants, especially large-leaved ones, can be gathered in shadier areas. A saucer beneath the pot to retain run-off helps.

8) Don't dig new ground in summer if you can avoid it, as digging soil allows any remaining moisture to escape. Hoe off weeds as



Traditional watering cans - less wasteful than a garden hose

shallowly as you can, loosen soil with a fork and 'puddle' plants into the soil, adding a little liquid fertiliser. Adding nutrients helps plants make the best use of what moisture there is by encouraging extensive root growth.

9) Establishing new plants in borders during dry times can be difficult. Instead, pot them into slightly bigger pots and keep well watered and fed in light shade until the autumn planting season arrives.

10) Early summer perennials, irises for example, will survive on moisture left in the soil from winter. Give late summer perennials such as phlox one good watering in the summer as plants begin to flower, which should be enough. In the longer term, consider planting drought-resistant species in your borders such as grasses, Mediterranean type shrubs such as thymes or phlomis, or sedums and other plants with spiky or succulent leaves.

How to prevent problems when growing those delicate lettuces



Water lettuce to avoid wilting and watch out for the slugs

Salad leaves can suffer in warm, dry weather, whether wilting in the hot sun or bolting (running to seed) prematurely, so there are a few measures to take to keep them at their tasty best.

If it's hot, sow seeds in the shade, as scorching weather reduces germination rates, and choose a semi-shaded spot so the plant has relief from the sun at some part of the day.

Keep salad leaves well watered, adding compost to retain moisture before planting, and keep slugs at bay with either slug rings or by picking them off in the evening or after rain, when they are most likely to strike.

To help prevent bolting, mulch around plants and water during dry weather. Remove any plants that have bolted as the leaves will taste bitter and pinch out any flowers that you see developing.

Grey mould or botrytis may be a problem in cold, damp summers. Increase the spacing between plants to reduce the problem and remove any infected material immediately.

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HALESOWEN, SUMMERFIELDS AVENUE

An unfurnished semi detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower and Jacuzzi Bath, Garage and Driveway Parking, Rear Garden. Wonderful views out the back

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, ASHVILLE DRIVE

An unfurnished detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage & Driveway Parking. Within easy reach of Halesowen College

£650 PCM



OLDBURY, SUFFOLK ROAD

A part furnished to suit detached property in popular residential area, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Galley Kitchen, Lounge and Separate Dining Room, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage

£650 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, TINSLEY AVENUE

A three bedroomed link detached house and being set in a cul de sac location and having accommodation including: Hall, Guest W.C., Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens and Side Garage with Driveway

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE, UFFMOOR LANE

Luxury Living in Hayley Green A superb, brand new luxury apartment on the first floor. Offering spacious accommodation including, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen and Dining with French Doors to Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking

£625 PCM



HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

A brand new unfurnished ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£625 PCM



HALESOWEN, MOORFIELD DRIVE

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Part Central Heating, Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage & Driveway Parking

£595 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

An Unfurnished detached house within a cul-de-sac location, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£595 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MARY MACARTHUR DRIVE

An unfurnished semi detached house, close to local transport and shops, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage, Cul-de-sac, Parking, Gardens

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

An impressive 2nd floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen town centre. Briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen and Separate Dining Area, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Allocating Parking

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

An unfurnished second floor apartment close to local amenities, briefly comprising of: Under Floor Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, One Allocated Parking Space, Communal Garden, Communal Lift To All Floors

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, FAIRMILE ROAD

A first floor furnished to suit flat, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Warm Air Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Well Kept Communal Gardens, Parking Space, Inspection Recommended

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA ROAD

An Unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE

A unfurnished modern first floor apartment briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garden, Parking Space

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, on a popular road, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Lounge, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Brand New Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway

£450 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA GARDENS

A modern top floor apartment, close to Old Hill town centre, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Allocated Parking

£425 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, THE LINK, PORTWAY ROAD

An unfurnished ground floor apartment, close to motorway access, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Open Plan Living Room/Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, ROOM AT KENT ROAD

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£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, SHORT STREET

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£385 PCM



DUDLEY, BLACKACRE ROAD

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TO LET

Rowley view, cradley health
£695

A well presented 4 bedroom detached property in a quiet location. The property comprises of: downstairs w.c., lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast bar, separate utility room, family bathroom and ensuite to the main bedroom. Large rear garden, garage and off road parking. Close to all local amenities and walking distance to schools. Viewing Essential.

TO LET

Balds Lane, Lye
£475

A well presented two bedroom property. Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, Kitchen, Living room, 2 bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property has a large drive way and low maintenance rear garden. Viewing Essential

TO LET

Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis
£595

An exceptional and well presented semi-detached home having the benefit of: Lounge, separate dining room, newly refitted kitchen, conservatory/utility area, good sized garage, three bedrooms, and a refitted bathroom. Gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens. Viewing highly recommended.

NEW

OFF LICENCE LEASE FOR SALE
£50,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a corner shop comprising of a convenience store, National Lottery and Off licence in a popular location of Smethwick. Lease is £50,000 or nearest offer. Optional stock available on request. Viewing is highly recommended for this

TO LET

Apperley Way, Halesowen
£400

A 2 Bedroom Flat in a sort after location. The property comprises of: 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, lounge, kitchen and communal gardens. Close to local amenities, Bus routes and within walking distance to Cradley Railway Station.

REDUCED

ST PAULS ROAD, SMETHWICK
£260,000

A superb detached 4 bedroom family property with an exceptionally large garden. Situated in a very popular area, within walking distance of local amenities and town centre. The property comprises of gas central heating, recently installed double glazed windows and also benefits from a new extension to the rear of the property. Viewing is highly recommended.

Whether you are buying, selling or letting, we are sure to be able to help...

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Terraced home could be good first time buy

A two-bed terraced property perfect for a first-time buyer or as a buy-to-let investment has come onto the market in Bilston.

Number 11 Hyett Way is a well-presented mid-terrace house with gas central heating and uPVC double glazing. It is on the market for offers in the region of £84,995 through the Wednesbury branch of estate agents Paul Dubberley.

A uPVC storm porch and front door open into a 16ft 9in x 11ft 9in through lounge/diner with ceiling coving, laminate flooring and a feature fireplace with marble effect hearth and wooden surround.

Refitted

The recently refitted kitchen measures 11ft 7in x 9ft and features a range of cream fronted wall and base units, work-surfaces, tiling, sink and drainer, oven, hob and extractor above and integrated appliances.

Both bedrooms, measuring 9ft 5in x 8ft 1in and 10ft x 9ft 1in, include fitted wardrobes while the fully tiled bathroom has a white suite that includes a bath, WC and pedestal wash basin.

Outside, the house is set back from the road behind a block-paved foregarden providing off-road parking.

To the rear, there's a fully enclosed low-maintenance rear garden with paving, wooden shed and shrub and plant borders.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, call 0121 505 3533 or send an email to: wednesbury@pauldubberley.co.uk



Number 11 Hyett Way is a modern terraced property with two bedrooms and an asking price of £84,995

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<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON STANFIELD ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented traditional style semi detached family residence located on a popular residential road in Quinton comprising reception hall, spacious through lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, side utility, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/vc, private rear garden, full-width terraced driveway to front. The property also benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) and alarm. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£167,500</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON RIDGACRE ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented semi-detached family residence located on a popular road comprising reception hall, downstairs guest WC, two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/WC, driveway to front with parking for two vehicles and private rear garden. The property also benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing (where specified) and alarm. Viewing is highly recommended. No Upward Chain.</p> <p>£159,995</p>	<p>NEW NO CHAIN</p> <p>HALESOWEN FIRTH PARK CRESCENT</p> <p>Deceptively spacious semi detached residence in a popular residential road comprising central entrance hall, study room, spacious lounge, dining area, modern style fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/vc with shower, rear garden, full-width driveway. Double glazing and gas central heating (where specified). Internal inspection recommended.</p> <p>£139,995</p>	<p>4 BED</p> <p>QUINTON OVERDALE ROAD</p> <p>Extended well presented semi-detached family residence located on popular residential road in Quinton comprising enclosed porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining area, L-shaped kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom/vc, four bedrooms, study room, front and rear gardens, off road parking/driveway to front, double glazing, gas central heating and alarm. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£139,950</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON BRISTNALL HALL ROAD</p> <p>Extended well presented semi-detached residence located on popular residential road in Oldbury comprising: enclosed porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, extended fitted kitchen, covered side entrance, two bedrooms, additional box room/study, modern first floor bathroom/WC, front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. The property also benefits from having rear access via the George Road. No Upward Chain.</p> <p>£126,950</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>EDGBASTON SELSEY ROAD</p> <p>Well presented end of terrace house that has recently been refurbished situated in Edgbaston comprising reception hall, two reception rooms, modern refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom/vc, front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. Viewing is recommended and offering No Upward Chain.</p> <p>£116,995</p>
<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON WARPLE ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented mid terrace residence located on popular residential road in Quinton close to The New Town and Ridgeacre Road comprising reception hall, through lounge/dining area, modern fitted kitchen, covered side entrance/utility area, three good sized bedrooms, first floor bathroom/vc, front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. Excellent opportunity for first time buyers or investment purchase. Viewing recommended.</p> <p>£109,950</p>	<p>NEW</p> <p>DUDLEY LYNDALE ROAD</p> <p>Delightfully presented and much improved mid terrace residence occupying a pleasant and convenient location with an open outlook to the front with easy access to Dudley town centre together with access to surrounding centres comprising entrance hall, lounge, spacious modern refitted kitchen/dining room, utility area, down stairs guest w.c., three bedrooms, modern refitted first floor bathroom/vc (with shower), parking space to front, front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. Internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this much improved property.</p> <p>£109,950</p>	<p>NEW</p> <p>OLDDBURY WATERSIDE COURT, TITFORD ROAD</p> <p>Superbly presented spacious third floor apartment located in the exclusive gated Waterside development on Telford Road comprising central reception hall with walk-in storage area, attractive spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, modern bathroom/vc with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, intercom system and allocated parking space. Internal inspection is a must.</p> <p>£106,995</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>TIPTON TIVIDALE STREET</p> <p>Well presented modern mid terrace residence ideal property for first time buyers or investment purchase comprising reception hall, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom/vc, rear garden, off road parking to front, double glazing, gas central heating and alarm. No Upward Chain. Viewing recommended.</p> <p>£99,995</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>QUINTON DUFTON ROAD</p> <p>Traditional style mid terrace residence comprising: Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms, first floor bathroom/vc, rear garden, driveway to the front providing off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified).</p> <p>£79,950</p>	<p>NO CHAIN</p> <p>TIPTON ANITA AVENUE</p> <p>Delightfully presented ground floor flat ideal first time buyers or investment property comprising: Entrance hall, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, inner hallway, double bedroom, bathroom/vc (with shower), electric storage heating (where specified) and allocated parking space. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£69,950</p>
<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDDBURY PUMPHOUSE WAY</p> <p>Well presented modern extended semi detached residence located close to the Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, downstairs guest w.c., fitted kitchen, dining room, spacious lounge, three bedrooms (master with en-suite shower room/vc), first floor bathroom/vc with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking, rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing.</p> <p>£600 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDDBURY BRISTNALL HALL ROAD</p> <p>Extended well presented semi detached residence located on popular residential road in Oldbury comprising reception hall, through lounge/dining room, extended fitted kitchen, covered side entrance, two double bedrooms, additional box/study room, modern first floor bathroom/vc (with shower), front and rear gardens, double glazing and gas central heating. Viewing Recommended.</p> <p>£525 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>ROWLEY REGIS GLASLYN AVENUE</p> <p>Luxury furnished second floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Leeches' Development in Rowley Regis, comprising central reception hall with built-in storage, attractive lounge with double glazed French doors with Juliet balcony, fitted kitchen with appliances, two double bedrooms master having luxury en-suite shower room, fitted wardrobes and double glazed French doors with Juliet balcony, luxury bathroom/vc, double glazing, storage heating, parking space, security intercom system and alarm. Furnished or unfurnished.</p> <p>£525 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>WOODGATE COUNTY CLOSE</p> <p>Spacious three-storey and terraced residence comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, spacious lounge, breakfast kitchen, first floor w.c., three bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway to front, gas central heating and double glazing. DSS welcome.</p> <p>£525 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>OLDDBURY TITFORD ROAD</p> <p>Luxury first floor apartment located within the exclusive new 'The Wharf' Development built by Bellway Homes and comprising central reception hall, spacious lounge with open plan fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, luxury bathroom/vc with shower, allocated parking space, intercom, storage heating and double glazing. Viewing essential</p> <p>£500 PCM</p>	<p>TO LET</p> <p>TIPTON ANITA AVENUE</p> <p>Delightfully presented ground floor flat comprising entrance hall, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, inner hallway, double bedroom, bathroom/vc (with shower), double glazing, electric storage heating and allocated parking space. Viewing is highly recommended.</p> <p>£400 PCM</p>



Coals to Newcastle? British-built Avensis models are to be exported to Toyota's home market

Toyota now shipping out the Avensis – to Japan

THE Toyota Avensis, built exclusively at Toyota's UK factory in Burnaston, Derbyshire, is to be exported – to Japan.

The launch of the third-generation Avensis in Toyota's "home" market later this year further strengthens the performance of the UK plant, which already ships the model to 47 countries worldwide.

The news has been welcomed by the Government as an endorsement of British manufacturing skills and quality.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said: "Toyota exports 85 per cent of the car and engines it makes at its UK plants in Burnaston and Deeside."

"Today's news that it will now export its Avensis model to Japan is a tribute to the skills of the workforce, the efficiency of the plants and the quality of its products."

"I was delighted to meet Fujio Cho, Chairman of Toyota when I visited Japan recently

and I highlighted the importance of manufacturing in the UK."

Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd Managing Director Katsunori Kojima said: "We are very proud that the Avensis has been selected for export to Japan. This is yet another vote of confidence for the factory and the high quality of our products."

Performance

Demand for European styling and engineering from Japanese customers has prompted Toyota's decision to introduce Avensis to the home market.

The Tourer estate car versions will be offered, powered by a 2.0-litre petrol engine with Multidrive S continuously variable transmission (CVT) for fuel efficient, low emissions performance.

The cars will be shipped from the UK at a rate of 750 vehicles a month with production commencing in July.

The Toyota Avensis was introduced in 1997. By the end of 2010, more than 1.8 million Avensis vehicles had been built – all at Burnaston – for sale in the UK, Europe and other markets worldwide.

Together with Toyota's other European production centres, the UK factory has succeeded in returning quickly to the production levels and operating hours that were in place prior to the Japan earthquake and tsunami in March.

The additional exports to Japan will reinforce its performance and its position as one of Toyota's most efficient and advanced factories.

The factory also builds Auris hatchback models and has the distinction of being the first factory in Europe to mass produce a full hybrid model, the Auris Hybrid.

To date Toyota has invested over £1.85 billion in its UK manufacturing operations since being established in 1992.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2). Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1). Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions: 324 - 94g/km. Offers are available for registrations between 01.06.11 and 31.07.11 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Excludes: drivers are against list price at time of publication; for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other make categories are included unless stated for use in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper. 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Blue, A/C, CD, 5-door, 29k	£4195	£28
57 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 DYNAMIC SPORT Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, CAT D, FSH, 17k	£3695	na
06 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI STYLE Red, Diesel, A/C, CD, 5-door, FSH, £30 year Road Tax	£4695	£30
55 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI LX ESTATE Blue, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£3995	£26
05 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4495	£29
55 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI GHIA Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4695	£30
07 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI LX Red, Diesel, Alloys, CD	£5195	£28
57 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 32k	£5695	£36
06 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i COLLECTION Black, Col coded bumpers, Low tax & insurance	£2695	£17
08 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i STYLE Blue, Col coded bumpers, Low tax & insurance, 33k	£3995	£26
58 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i STYLE Red, Col coded bumpers, Low tax & insurance	£3695	£24
06 Reg	FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI ZETEC Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH, 68k	£4495	£29
08 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH, 68k	£7395	£44
58 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE ESTATE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 68k	£7395	£44
08 Reg	FORD C-MAX 2.0 TDCI ZETEC MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£7695	£47
04 Reg	FORD FUSION 1.4S Silver, A/C, CD, Low Insurance	£3695	£24
07 Reg	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£6195	£39
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02 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 2.0 SE CABRIOLET Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 42k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE Black A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 34k	£5195	£28
08 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE Silver, A/C, CD, 3-door, Low Insurance, FSH, 27k	£5395	£35
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56 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.4 S Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 46k	£4695	£30
57 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS Black, 5-door, Low Insurance Group 1, FSH, 33k	£4195	£28
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, 56k	£3695	£24
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE AUTOMATIC Silver, Auto, A/C, Alloys, CD, 49k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Road Tax	£5195	£33
07 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Road Tax, FSH	£5695	£36
06 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE CABRIOLET Silver, Diesel A/C, Alloys, CD, 42k	£6695	£41
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57 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i LIFE Silver, 2008, A/C, CD, 53k	£5495	£35
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi 16V Life Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, Low Road Tax	£5195	£33
53 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£2695	£17
07 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i DESIGN Silver, A/C, CD, Half Leather Sport Seats, 5-door	£4695	£30
53 Reg	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6i EASYTRONIC AUTOMATIC Gold, Auto, A/C, CD, 46k	£3195	£21
06 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8i VVT DESIGN Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Sport Seats	£4195	£28
07 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi EXCLUSIVE Silver, A/C, CD, 48k	£5195	£33
53 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 DTI ELEGANCE MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 60k	£3695	£24
08 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE MPV Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 7 seater, FSH, 28k	£6695	£41
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The firm was founded in Anchor Hill, Brierley Hill by Colin Nash in 1975. After ten years of steady growth the business moved to its current location in 1985 and Colin was joined in the business by eldest sons, Warwick and James in 1994.

A quick chat with Warwick reveals the firms longevity is not the only aspect that separates it from the crowd. 'We are one of the very few independents in the locality that have our own service/MOT Department on-site. This really does give the Customer a sense of reassurance which in this time of financial austerity counts for a lot'.

James has also noticed a marked increase in repeat business over the last twelve months. 'From day one, Dad has drummed it into both myself and Warwick of the importance to show care and provide a real quality of service to the customer, knowing future business comes from recommendation and referral'.

The Company has now built up an incredible reputation for providing a professional, yet friendly service. The dealership specialises in providing quality used cars from £2995 to £6995 and has forged a close working relationship with prime finance company Carlyle Finance who can arrange a competitive repayment on any vehicle in stock.

Speaking of the Company's high standards Warwick added: 'Attention to detail is what sets us apart from other used car dealers. Every Car that leaves us is supplied with a full service, full MOT, 82-Point Pre-delivery Inspection and a Comprehensive Warranty Plan.'

Delph Garage is open six days a week and has an impressive website at www.delphgarage.co.uk which features every car carried in stock with multiple images. Finance can now also be applied for on-line.

With a reputation that has been built up over three decades, a real commitment to its customer base and a family feel to the place, Delph Garage looks well equipped to serve the Black Country Car Market for many more years to come.

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- Air Con
- CD
- Fogs
- Alloys



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- Silver
- CD
- £30 Tax
- Fogs
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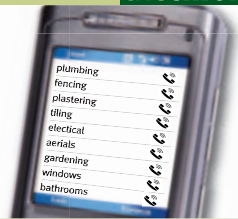
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SINGLE female, 41, slim, blonde, like weekends, good nature, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

RED with lovely eyes and 5ft 3in, slim, blonde, very caring and honest, seeks male. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

BEAUTIFUL blonde lady, 36, 5ft 4in, and all round lovely, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

29YR old happy blonde with a great body seeking like-minded male for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

KIND woman, blonde, 36, seeking a nice male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

NAUGHTY blonde 5ft 10in, 36y old, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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30YR old attractive confident business woman, frequently in nice, seeks male for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

VERY attractive, 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, NR, seeks genuine male for friendship, single, honest, Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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STUNNING mixed race female, 23, blonde, big brown eyes, long black hair, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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FUN female, 30, blonde, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

DARK female, 30, blonde, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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YOUNG blonde lady, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

LITTLE 30y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

MARY 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

ONCE 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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SLIM blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

ELEGANT blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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BLONDE blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

LOVING blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

30YR blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

FEMALE blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

WENDY black beauty, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

LADY 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

HELLEN 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

NICHOLE black beauty, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

SUE 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

GARY 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

PROFESSIONAL blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

OPEN friendly blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

LINDA 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

YOUNG blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

MARIA 36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

ATTRACTIVE blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

WEST blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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36y old, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

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BLACK blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363993

ADAMANT blonde, 30, blonde, fun, like to have fun, seeks male, 40-50, for fun and love. Tel: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 3

SPORT

Saxons showing Fortey

Stourbridge Saxons have unveiled front row veteran Chris Fortey as their new forwards coach.

The 35-year-old will also provide cover for Worcester Warriors after agreeing a six-month contract with the Premiership club.

Hooker Fortey has more than 200 top flight games under his belt having been a regular at Gloucester before heading to Sixways in 2005.

Saxons Director of Rugby Neil Mitchell is now looking forward to the new campaign when Fortey will link up with backs coach and fellow Warriors legend Thinus Delpoit.

"I am extremely pleased to announce Chris as forwards coach at Stourbridge for the 2011/12 season," Mitchell explained.

Experience

"He will be working closely with myself and Thinus during the coming months and we are looking forward to the experience and expertise he can bring to our coaching team."

"This opportunity will enable the continuity of the good work done by Tony Windo last season and maintains the strong Warriors link."

"Chris has committed to Warriors as a player until Christmas to compete in their Premiership campaign."

"However, Warriors CEO Charlie Little has indicated there may be opportunities during the early season where Chris may be released to play for the Saxons."



The teams relax after the completion of the Kidderminster Carolians ladies' seven-a-side rugby tournament

Ten teams battle it out in rugby tournament

TEN TEAMS from all over the Midlands entered Kidderminster Carolians' first ladies' seven-a-side tournament.

Camp Hill beat Old Leamingtonians 36-12 in the final of the

event, sponsored by Hire It.

The teams played a round robin format in two pools of five with the top two from each going into the semi-finals. Games were played on adjoining pitches with

each game lasting 15 minutes. The teams provided a feast of running rugby with some exceptional handling, the 35 games producing 118 tries. Presentations were made by club chair-

man Peter Cook. The club aims to expand next year's event to include under-18 teams. Interested schools should contact Sarah Cound on 07977 120272 or Rae Luckett on 07769 919197.

Pupils getting set for games

Pupils from a Dudley school are making their final preparations before competing in the a major local tournament.

On Wednesday, June 29, pupils from The Kingswinford School, Water Street, will train in their final session before they compete at the Black Country School Games (BCSG).

The school have qualified for the badminton and athletic competitions of the BCSG and will also have a group of dancers performing in the opening and closing ceremonies and pupils in the role of officials for the festival as part of the Young Leaders programme. The BCSG is a new and exciting opportunity to encourage more young people to take part in competitive sport.

Disability

On July 6, more than 1,500 young people from across all four boroughs of the Black Country will compete in more than 13 sports, including athletics, volleyball, badminton and basketball, as well as adapted sports such as wheelchair rugby, football and Bocchia for pupils with disability and special needs. The central venue for the games will be Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton, and there will be an additional six sites in the surrounding area.

Mrs Hedley headteacher at The Kingswinford School, said: "The School is proud to have badminton and athletic teams competing in the games."

Jordanne is paired up for Wimbledon doubles

The All England Club has announced the four men's and four ladies' pairings for the Wheelchair Tennis Doubles events at The 125th Championships, Wimbledon, 2011.

Lucy Shuker and Jordanne Whitley of Halesowen become the first all-British pairing to play in the Ladies' Doubles at Wimbledon.

British No 1 Shuker has reached the final for the past two years partnering Australia's Daniela di Toro, while 19-year-old British No.2 Whitley makes her playing debut at Wimbledon this year, having previously been chosen to perform the coin toss for the Ladies Singles' final 2008 between Serena and Venus Williams.

Whitley has already made her Australian Open and French Open debuts in 2011. Defending champions Robin Ammerlaan of the Netherlands and Stefan Olsson of Sweden return to try and retain the Wimbledon men's doubles title.

Reigning US Open champions and Wheelchair Tennis Doubles Masters champions Maikel Scheffers and Ronald Vink will bid for their first



Jordanne Whitley

Wimbledon title as a pairing.

Beijing Paralympic Games men's doubles champions Stephane Houdet and Michael Jeremiasz pair up at Wimbledon for the first time since winning the title in 2009.

Meanwhile the men's doubles Wild Card has been awarded to Dutchman Tom Egberink, who is making his Wimbledon debut, and world No.1 singles player Shingo Kunieda

Swimming teams pool the victories

WORCESTER COUNTY RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS, WOLVERHAMPTON – SUNDAY JUNE 19

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were for the fourth year running defending a trophy, this time the top girls title.

The teams excelled in the heats and all made it safely through to the finals. In the morning session Halesowen swimmers faced a tough battle and found themselves six points adrift of the overall lead.

Despite a first place disqualification the boys were in the lead by 3 points but the girls faced an uphill struggle to close an eight point gap. In the afternoon session all of the teams put in tremendous performances with five first places, two seconds and a hat-trick of third places.

Not only did the final three teams come up with maximum points but they also set championship best performances in the process.

With the Top Boys Trophy secured a swim off was needed to separate the teams for the Top Club Trophy and the mixed team of Lilian Parsons, Chloe Robbins, Marc Collett and Josh Bradley came first.

All teams were outstanding and were only once outside the top three places all day. The girls teams had stiff competition and secured two first places – both in record times. The age 13/14 girls freestyle team included Chloe Bate, Isobel Breslin, Lilian Parsons and Megan Willetts and the open freestyle team included Hannah Cuthbert, Beth Jackson and Chloe Robbins.

The boys were comfortable winners of the top boys trophy winning 5 of the 10 events. Winning teams were the age 11/12 freestyle team including James Benson, Max Clapham, George Davies and Mark Laing, the 13/14 freestyle and championship best Medley team including Piers Boyack, Jacob Darby, Ryan Davies and Max Rollason, the 15/16 freestyle and medley teams including Harry Cowley, Sam Johnson, Luke Morris, Jack Slattery and the championship best mens Open freestyle team including Zach Collins and Jack Watts.

Final point scores were (top three teams): Top Club: Halesowen 130,

Stourbridge 130 Worcester 96 (Top Club Halesowen decided by swim-off); Top Girls Teams: Stourbridge 76, Halesowen 63, Worcester 54; Top Boys Teams: Halesowen 67, Stourbridge 54, Worcester 42

Nuneaton Junior League

Round 3 - Saturday June 25

Junior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Wyndley, Sutton Coldfield the final round of the Nuneaton Junior League first division.

The team had already ensured a good finishing position in the League following strong performances in the earlier rounds and this proved to be the case again with Halesowen finishing in a comfortable second place.

The top two places were settled early in the gala with a very strong Boldmere surging ahead and Halesowen as runners-up.

Unbeaten

Halesowen nine-year-old swimmers were stars of the show and were unbeaten in the gala.

Double event winners were Kitty Luscombe and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins in the breast and backstroke, Katy Morrice and Ben Meakin – freestyle and butterfly and were joined by their teammates Nicol Green, Kathryn Kelly, Lila Shaaban, Thomas Benson, James Perry and Jack Vale to win the boys and girls freestyle and medley relays.

The 10 year-olds were also impressive and finished no lower than second place with double event winner Jack Simpson in the freestyle and backstroke.

Indu Appanna won the backstroke and Jakob Baker the butterfly and the boys Medley relay team including James Cuthbert and George Westwood came home in first place.

Other individual event winners were team captain James Benson in the butterfly and Mark Laing in the freestyle. The combined boys and girls relay also finished the gala with a win including team members Emma Baker and Molly Kelly.

Points scores were Boldmere A 261, Halesowen 225, Braunstone 168, Wolverhampton 164, Boldmere B 136, Droitwich Dolphins 94.

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SWIMMING TEAMS POOL VICTORIES

JORDANNE PAIRED AT WIMBLEDON

Page 43

Heathens claw back pride at Monmore



Kyle Newman leads Tony Atkin and Darryl Richings at Monmore Green

Report by Tim Hamblin

DUDLEY HEATHENS 47

STOKE 43

(STOKE WIN 105-79 ON AGGREGATE)

The dazzling sun which bathed Monmore Green on Tuesday did not shine too brightly on Dudley's already grey hopes of reaching the Knockout Cup final.

So fierce was the illumination that Tom Perry fell on the fourth bend in heat three after being temporarily blinded – and teammate Danny Stoneman nearly did the same in the next race.

The danger meant a 10-minute break was taken before heat eight.

By that time the sun had well and truly set on the Heathens' chances with 5-1s needed in each and every one of the last eight races to force an aggregate draw.

That faint hope was promptly snuffed out by another Potters 5-1, although Richard Franklin failed by a whisker to get up on the line and deny James Sarjeant second place behind Jaimie Pickard. Simon Lambert, winner of the Golden Hammer last year, is a known force at Monmore and formed a formidable pairing with the excellent Pickard.

With solid backing from reserve Sarjeant – a 2010 Heathen – the Potters always looked likely to convert their 30-point advantage from the first leg into overall victory.

They even led twice by six on the night before Dudley hit back to maintain their unbeaten home record in 2011.

Humdinger

Kyle Newman was their mainstay, defeating Lambert twice out of three including a humdinger in heat 10.

The Dudley man had a fractional advantage down the first lap back straight and converted it into a solid lead with a finely controlled turn.

But Lambert, despite a heavy tumble in the first running when hitting the fallen Pickard, gave chase and rounded his man before Newman's superb inside pass on the pits turn appeared decisive.

Even then Lambert waded back into the fray, powering up the inside off the final turn and falling short by the slightest of margins.

Dudley had a two-point lead going into the last and Newman, again hotly pursued by Lambert, took the win with Ashley Morris third to leave both sets of supporters happy.

Dudley: K Newman 14, A Morris 7, J Armstrong 6+2, T Perry 6+1, R Franklin 6, D Richings 4+1, D Stoneman 4.
Stoke: S Lambert 12+1, T Atkin 9, J Pickard 8+1, J Sarjeant 8+1, G Isherwood 4+2, T Webster 1, B Reade 1.

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FIGHT BOWLING IS WINNER FOR OLDS

WOMBOURNE (3PTS) 174-8
LOST TO OLD HILL (20PTS) 178-3
BY 7 WKTS.

In their away game at Church Road against Wombourne the 1st XI won the toss and chose to field in a reduced overs game.

The batsmen began cautiously as two wickets fell with the score on 38.

After the fall of two further wickets for the addition of 26 runs the Wombourne scoring rate was kept in check by some tight Old Hill bowling and they ended their innings on 174-8 wickets from 49 overs with Nigel Davenport (43) and Ed Denham (22) being pick of the visitors bowlers.

In reply Old Hill lost opener Mike Hingley with the score on 22 before a stand of 97 between opener Dan Cox (115) and Mark Fisher (29) helped the visitors close in on victory.

Unfortunately Dan Cox's magnificent century came to an end with the scores tied, but Alex Hills cracked the necessary runs to see Old Hill home to an excellent 7 wickets victory with 4.3 overs remaining to move into 2nd place in the table.

OLD HILL (20 PTS) 117-3 BEAT
W.B. DARTMOUTH (1PT) 114 BY 7WKTS

The 2nd XI played hosts to W.B. Dartmouth and again having won the toss elected to field in a match reduced to 41 overs per side.

The visitors lost a wicket to Jon Baig in the first over and continued to lose wickets on a regular basis and were bowled out for 114 runs in the 33rd over thanks to excellent bowling by Dan Such (7-4-12-3), Mitch Jeffery (2-29), Jared Daniels (2-4) and Shezad Aslam (1-19) backed up by a good fielding performance.

However, Old Hill's reply also started badly as Joe Thorn was dismissed in the first over before Dan Wood (51 no) was joined by Chris Round (31) as they took their 2nd wicket partnership to 56. Jared Daniels (15) and Shezad Aslam (15 no) then helped Dan Wood, who finished with an unbeaten half century, took Old Hill to a well-earned victory by 7 wickets in just 19 overs.

CLAVERTY (3PTS) 155 LOST TO OLD
HILL (20PTS) 156-4 BY 6 WKTS.

After winning the toss Old Hill 3rd XI invited Claverley to bat, and were soon amongst the wickets aided by three catches behind the stumps by Karl Jones.

Ollie Moseley was the pick of the visitors bowlers with 4-35 as the hosts were bowled out for 155 in 42 overs. In reply Old Hill made good progress with the bat and reached their target in 33 overs to complete their victory by 6 wickets. Hamza Ahmed (63 no) top scored for the visitors with Steve Derham (36) close behind.

OLD HILL (24PTS) 193-8 BEAT CLAVERTY

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LEY (2PTS) 129 BY 64 RUNS.

The 4th XI lost the toss at Wassell Grove and were put in to bat by Claverley.

Openers Izzy Khan (59) and Anthony Foster (43) posted an opening stand of 85 before being parted and set the scene for a competitive home total of 193-8 wickets from 45 overs. Ryan Dimmock (32) and Irshad Ahmed (23) also batted well for the hosts.

In reply the visitors also got off to a good start as they constructed a half century opening partnership but thanks to some brilliant wicket keeping by Kieron Daniels and 4wickets for 20 runs off 11 overs by captain Irshad Ahmed, Old Hill bowled Claverley out for just 129 runs to win by 64 and complete a clean sweep of victories for Old Hill teams for the second timethis season.

JUNE 26

ECB NATIONAL CLUB T20 COMPETITION
REGIONAL FINALS DAY AT HADEN HILL.

Under clear blue skies, a baking hot sun watched by a bumper crowd the scene was set for a cracking day's cricket hosted by Old Hill CC. Match A: Dorridge 98-7 beat Barnt Green 98 in a low scoring game to reach the days final against the winners of match B.

Match B: Walmley won the toss and asked Old Hill to bat. Mike Hingley (31) and Nathan Round (49) got Old Hill off to a cracking start aided by Dan Cox (28).

Then Warmley put the brakes on the scoring before Dan Wood (28) and Alex Hills (10 n.o.) helped the hosts to a magnificent total of 172-7wickets.

In reply Walmley lost early wickets as Zaf Ali (2) Alex Hills (1) Sharkey Hussain (3) and

Nigel Davenport (3) restricted the visitors to 140-9 wickets. Old Hill won by 32 runs to move on to the final.

The Final: Old Hill won the toss and elected to bat but got off to a poor start against Dorridge losing their first 2 wickets for just 18 runs.

Then a good stand by Dan Cox (32) and Carl Whyte (46) got Old Hill back on track followed by some lusty hitting by Nigel Davenport (30no) and Dan Wood (28) which took the hosts to 155-5wickets.

The Dorridge reply started well before Carl Whyte (1) Nigel Davenport (1) and Zafar Ali (2) Sharkey Hussain (1) and Jared Daniels (1) began to take wickets to put a strange hold on the scoring and with Mark Fisher tidy behind the stumps the required run rate began to rise.

Then a magnificent running catch by Alex Hills led the visitors with a mountain to climb off the last over bowled by Sharkey Hussain.

However Old Hill held their nerve to win a memorable match by 9 runs as they move on to the Area Finals to be held in July with two very good all round performances.

Derek Griffiths

BOXING

Ryan is keeping his nose clean for the bigger stage

Dudley hot-shot Ryan Aston booked his place on boxing's night of the year with victory on his professional debut.

Aston won every session of his four-round fight with Iain Jackson in Sheffield and the 20-year-old middleweight from Dudley this week heads to Hamburg to box on the undercard of David Haye's heavyweight collision with Wladimir Klitschko on Saturday night.

A former top amateur with Priory Park ABC, Aston has joined the 'Hayemaker' stable and trained alongside the WBA heavyweight champion in the countdown to his paid debut.

Glenn McCrory, the former IBF cruiserweight champion, was impressed with Aston's debut showing. McCrory, commenting for television, said Aston "looks the part, has fast hands and definitely has potential."

The well-schooled southpaw had too much skill for Jackson, a personal trainer from Brighton, having his fifth professional fight.

Referee Marcus McDonnell scored the fight 40-36 and the stats showed Aston outpunched Jackson 59-11.

Aston went into the fight knowing he had to avoid an injury to secure his plane ticket to Germany – and said: "I was given the chance to box



Ryan Aston, black and white shorts, on the defensive. Picture: Lawrence Lustig

on the same bill as the fight of the decade and was determined not to blow it. I couldn't afford to get cut or bruised and maybe that's why I felt a bit sluggish in there. I should have stuck to my boxing, but was trying to please the crowd too much."

From ringside it looked like Aston – who took plenty of noisy support with him from the Black Country – turned in a polished performance.

He showed good footwork, fast hands and moved through the gears as the fight went on. Aston was unhurried in the opener and from

the midway point of the second, started to find his range and timing. By the bell, his smooth combination punching had Jackson disorganised.

Jackson, brave, but with limited skills, did make the occasional rushing attack, but Aston was too smart on his feet.

He made Jackson miss and in the third, Aston's punches bloodied his nose and blasted out his gum shield. Aston used the ring well in the last round. He picked Jackson off with jabs and made him miss to complete a shut-out points win.

Stour's superiority stands

OLDSWINFORD 1STXI (3 POINTS) 158-8, STOURBRIDGE 1STXI (20 POINTS) 160

Stourbridge 1stXI maintained their Worcester league superiority by beating Oldswinford 1stXI by seven wickets in a local derby.

Cool heads kept Stour on course despite the sabre rattling by the opposition to derail them getting to a score of 160.

Losing the toss Oldswinford first XI were subdued from the start by accurate bowling spells from James Musk and Jitesh Patel on a pitch with a variable bounce. Patel had Dave Martin trapped LBW with his fifth delivery for no score.

Three down for 70 in the 23rd over Oldswinford needed to crack on. Up for a win Oldswinford created a tense atmosphere to unnerve Stour

batsmen. Openers Alex Bingham and Steve Game focussed on the job at hand put on 53 for the first wicket.

At the other end Banks not to be outdone played a master class of an innings in keeping a cool head. They put on 72 to add to the 68 partnership between Banks and Game. Stour reached the required target in the 41st over. Banks not out on 54 and Alexander not out on 25 completed a notable victory.

STOURBRIDGE 2ND XI (24 POINTS) 295-3, COLWALL (4 POINTS) 186 STOURBRIDGE WIN

Stourbridge 2nd XI took on Colwall at the Memorial Ground the opposition witnessed a mammoth innings of 152 not out from the U17-year-old talented Ben Mantom reaching maturity this season looks to be a real prospect.

BARNT GREEN 3RD XI (13 POINTS) 183, STOURBRIDGE 3RD XI (7 POINTS) 143-5

Stourbridge 3rd XI skipper Peter Griffiths won the toss and asked Barnt Green to bat on a rain affected track.

Opening Bowlers youngsters Matt Jeavons (3 wickets) and Umar Khalid used the conditions with effective bowling to keep the home side to 1.5 runs per over until the halfway point.

STOURBRIDGE 4TH XI (4 POINTS) 147, BARNT GREEN 4TH XI (20 POINTS) 148-7

Barnt Green win
Stour CC young stars playing in the fourth XI also celebrated their cricket prowess. With the bat 15-year-old Calum Litster put together 42 of the best runs before falling LBW.

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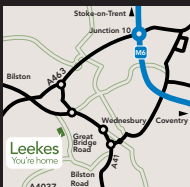
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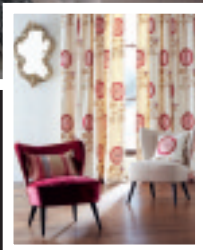
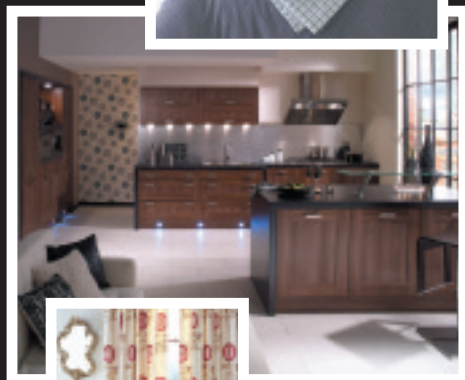
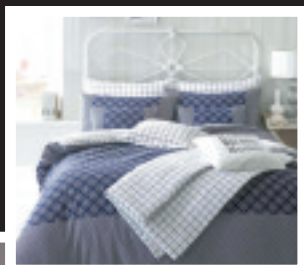
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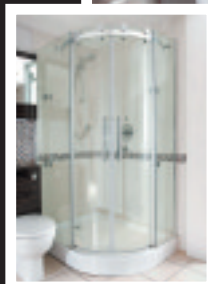
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FREE expert bathroom design and installation...

With over 50 bathrooms and showers on display, you'll be forgiven for feeling spoilt for choice! It comes as no surprise to find that each model combines practical design with functional style as our bathrooms and showers are designed by some of the biggest and best in the market – Jacuzzi, Heritage, Daryl, Roman and Utopia – to name just a few.

As with our kitchens, our experts in the Bathroom Studio will take you through our 360° Complete Service. Planning, design and installation all come as standard – so we take care of everything for you. And don't forget those all important finishing touches – from soap dispensers, toothbrush holders and luxurious towels – you'll find it all at Leekes.



HALF PRICE
BATHS AND
SHOWER
ENCLOSURES

10 years peace of mind with every conservatory...

If you're considering adding space or improving the exterior of your home, then our Conservatory and Glazing experts here at Leekes are full of great ideas to help.

Using the finest materials, the latest technology and traditional craftsmanship, you'll find the most up to the minute innovations available – from conservatories with tiled roofs to garden rooms and orangeries.

And it's not just about conservatories. Installing replacement windows and doors, garage doors and soffits and fascias is something we're experienced in too.

Whatever home improvement you're considering investing in, there's free design, planning and installation and a 10 year guarantee for total peace of mind. From a company you can trust.



FREE finishing touches

FREE bevels
worth up to £500



£500
Leekes voucher

When you spend over £12,500 on a new conservatory.

uPVC, Hardwood or Tiled Roof options available

Fantastic choice of sizes, styles and finishes available, complete with our full design, planning and installation service and a comprehensive 10 year guarantee.

ASK ABOUT OUR FANTASTIC SALE OFFERS ON WINDOWS, DOORS AND MUCH MORE!



Bespoke design ideas to transform your home...

If you're not short of ideas but lack the time to bring them to life, why not enlist the help of our in-house interior design team? Their speciality is knowing everything there is to know about designer fabrics from Harlequin, Romo, Blendworth and Designers Guild and how best to use them to create gorgeous bespoke window treatments, cushions and throws which will make a statement or simply make you feel at home.

The finishing touches make all the difference - that's why we offer everything you need to complete the look you want in your home. You'll find carpets, wallpaper, cushions, lighting, cookware, mirrors, bedding, pictures and so much more – so it's easy to see why we're the one stop destination store for all things 'home'.



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Come and join us for a **FREE** coffee...

Take time out and enjoy a **FREE** tea or filter coffee in our new restaurant with any food purchase of £3 or more. It's a great addition to our brand new store and let's you refresh yourself and take the weight off your feet after all that shopping!



Opening Hours

Monday:	09:00 - 17:30
Tuesday:	09:00 - 20:00
Wednesday:	09:00 - 17:30
Thursday:	09:00 - 20:00
Friday:	09:00 - 17:30
Saturday:	09:00 - 17:30
Sunday:	10:30 - 16:30

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FREE CREDIT**
WITH NO DEPOSIT TO PAY*

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